Golez says rebels planned to set up 15-man junta

Story below, Col. 1

Coup charges filed against 321 rebels

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra

CHARGES of coup d'etat, a crime against public order under the Revised Penal Code, were yesterday filed against Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV and 320 other military men who mounted the failed uprising Sunday in Makati City.

COUP/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Friday, August 1, 2003 ★★★ 90 pages / 11 sections / vol. 18 / no. 234 P15
website: www.inq7.net

Internet adultery on the rise in US

NEW YORK—Suspicious husbands and wives who once might have hired a private eye to find out if their spouses were cheating are now using do-it-yourself tech-

INTERNET/A19

HULI KA RIN, TAKSIL !!!

POST-OAKWOOD mood of President Macapagal at the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday night: "I thought they would appreciate that I solved it peacefully within 20 hours without any damage to property."

"WHAT do I get in return?"

"WHAT can you expect from a lawyer of Piatco?" VAL HANDUMON

Businessmen warn vs state of rebellion

GMA irked by 'awful statement' of Makati traders

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ALLOWING the state of rebellion to continue indefinitely could be a bigger blow to the economy than the weekend mutiny in Makati City, business leaders warned yesterday.

And in the Senate, opposition leaders denounced the President's declaration as a legal anomaly.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo insisted that the state of rebellion she declared on Sunday would remain in effect because "enemies" of the state were still on the loose.

"The state of rebellion will continue to be in force but this does not mean that we are in a state of siege," the President said. She said the country was on the "normal course of business, protected by an umbrella of sustained vigilance by the state."

But Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Donald Dee said businessmen welcomed the President's declaration at the height of the Oakwood mutiny—but not four days later after the President herself had declared that the crisis was over and her military officials said they were in control.

Dee said the state of rebellion has forced foreign investors to defer investments and foreign buyers to hold off orders from local exporters because of the air of uncertainty and instability.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz said that for the layman, a state of rebellion created the im-

BUSINESSMEN/A18

6 officers barred from testifying in House probe

By Cynthia D. Balana Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

FEARING that the safety of six junior officers who had led Sunday's mutiny would be compromised, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya barred them from attending yesterday's hearing at the House of Representatives on the circumstances surrounding the revolt.

"When I received the invitation of the House (for the six rebels), I discussed this with the security group and it was our assessment that the threats to their lives are serious," said Abaya, who apologized to the House committee on national defense for the no-show of the officers.

Abaya said it was his decision not to allow the transport to the Batasang Pambansa of the officers—Navy Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV, Navy Ltsg. James Layug, Marine Capt. Gary Alejano and Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, and Army 1Lt. Florentino Somera. They are detained inside the compound of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) in Quezon City.

"If they cannot secure six of their own officers, then how can they secure the

6 OFFICERS/A20

Golez says rebels planned 15-man junta

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE RENEGADE soldiers who seized the Oakwood Premier building in Makati on Sunday had plotted to seize power by installing a 15-member junta called the National Recovery Council (NRC) that would provide "policy directions and ensure the continuity of bureaucratic operations."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez revealed the plot yesterday before the House committee on national defense, which is looking into the mutiny staged by the Magdalo group of soldiers.

Golez said the plot was contained in a document, "The Last Revolution: Towards A New Philippine Order," which was retrieved from the Oakwood apartments by troops loyal to the government shortly after the surrender of rebel soldiers.

Once successful, the rebellion would be called the last revolution as "there shall never again be a cause for the people to revolt," the document said.

Golez said the siege in Makati was the first phase of the revolution which, according to the document, had three elements—cause, vision and the

GOLEZ/A20

Dinky angry: Mutineers anarchists, not idealists

By Volt Contreras

IN A RARE display of anger, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman warned the public againstregarding the mutineers as "idealists" or "heroes."

"Even the vendors of *isaw* (barbecued innards) whom we provided with seed capital can now lose their market," she said yesterday.

Soliman, who is directly tasked with helping the poorest of the poor, said she felt "not just frustration but [also] anger" over the economic consequences of Sunday's failed uprising.

"I'm passionate about this because whatever hope we [in the Department of Social Welfare and Department] have generated by helping a significant number of people in a concrete manner is now backsliding," she said in a phone interview.

She said that the mutiny leaders had a "political agenda" and that she was worried they would be "hero-worshipped."

"I'm not saying there is no graft and corruption in the government for indeed there is [graft] even in the private sector. I'm concerned about the model it presents to the young people—a romantic notion of how problems can be solved at the barrel of the gun and by threatening lives," she said, adding:

DINKY/A17

GMA heaps praise on Corpus for sacrifice

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

THE "QUEEN" yesterday lavished praise on her "knight," and saluted him as an officer and a gentleman.

"If all others in uniform had his noble values, this country would be the safest in the world," President Macapagal-Arroyo said of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, 58, whose resignation as chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces she accepted on Tuesday.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal was deeply saddened by the resignation of Corpus, who had said that the "restiveness" in the AFP would not die down if he stayed at his post. "In chess, when a queen is beleaguered, it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice a knight to save the game," Corpus wrote in his resignation letter.

Bunye said Ms Macapagal "understood" Corpus' "personal decision" to quit. Last night at the Manila Overseas Press Club, the President said she was thinking of assigning Corpus to the war

GMA/A17

US town backs Pinoy family facing deportation

THE NEIGHBORHOOD good guys in a small American town are Filipinos Tomas Aganda, wife Judy and daughter Jennylyn, 15. AP

SELAH, Washington—They may be Filipinos, but they are more American than most Americans. For the last 13 years, for instance, they have cleaned—for free—the city's US flags and the royalty dresses for Community Days.

Now, Tomas Aganda and his family are fighting deportation from a land that has been their home since 1990. And they are getting support from hundreds of people who say the immigrants are valuable members of the community and should be allowed to stay here.

In Selah, a town of 6,300, the Agandas' neighbors have taken up the fight.

Tomas and Judy Aganda, who own a laundry business, and their 15-year-old daughter, Jennylyn, were scheduled to be deported on Wednesday.

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper, the Agandas' lawyer managed to have the deportation delayed until Aug. 18. Immigration authorities, however, required Tomas, 55, Judy, 48, and Jennylyn to buy one-way, nonrefundable plane tickets to the Philippines.

The Aganda couple's three other children—Herbie, 23, Khimson, 21 and Stephanie, 19—may remain in the United States. Their two sons have student visas, and Stephanie, who was born in America, is a US citizen.

"They're such good people," said Gerri Henry, who along with her husband Jerry, builds the city's float each year for Community Days.

"For 12 years, they've helped us work on the float," Gerri said. "They've helped us glue thousands of flowers, brought us food while we worked."

On Monday, about 15 people gathered 2,600 signatures for a petition to US Rep. Doc Hastings, a Republican from the state of Washington. The petitioners aim to persuade the federal government to let the Aganda family stay.

Last Friday, Selah Mayor Bob Jones held a news conference to express his support for the Agandas.

State Sen. Alex Deccio sought a 90-day delay in proceedings to fight the deportation. "It seems to me that here are people who are good people, the kind of people we certainly want to immigrate to our country," Deccio said.

The Agandas came to the United States in 1990 with visitor visas. Within

US TOWN/A19

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/01/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Rebels used guns issued to Gringo, papers show

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

HONASAN

SEVERAL high-powered firearms that were reported missing from the inventory of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and later found in the possession of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group had been issued to Sen. Gregorio Honasan when he was still a colonel in the service.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, Honasan had acknowledged receiving in November 1986 two M-14 rifles and several other firearms that were later recovered in Bataan and Sulu.

The mutinous soldiers calling themselves the Magdalo group that attempted a coup last Sunday had accused top military and defense department officials of selling ammunition to Muslim guerrillas, particularly the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

According to the documents, the Armed Forces had been alerted as early as May 2000 on the loss of high-powered firearms that were later discovered in the hands of communist and Muslim rebels.

The weapons, mostly M-14 Armalite rifles, were found with communist insurgents and in suspected Muslim rebel hideouts after encounters with government soldiers.

Three of the missing firearms were recovered during operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Honasan, however, said last night that when he left the Department of National Defense as chief of its security group he had turned over all property and firearms assigned to him to the incoming defense officials.

"It was turned over from the supply accountable officer detailed to me to the incoming supply accountable officer," Honasan told the INQUIRER.

"It was all accounted for... it was a staff function... there was no discrepancy," he said, adding that the Commission on Audit had cleared him.

'After my time'

Honasan said that if there were reports that some firearms that had been issued to him in 1986 had turned up in the hands of the enemy, then "it happened after my time."

"This is the latest in a series of petty and futile attempts to cover up the inefficiency, corruption and incompetence (of officials) and the issues (raised by the disgruntled junior officers)," he said.

The discovery of the firearms in the possession of rebels and bandits was contained in a series of memoranda issued by the intelligence unit of the AFP to the defense secretary between May 2000 and June 2001.

One M-14 rifle with serial No. 1366398, according to an AFP memorandum dated June 27, 2000, was recovered from communist guerrillas following a clash on June 2, 2000 between rebels and government soldiers in Pilar, Bataan.

Another M-14 rifle with serial No. 1122802, another memorandum said, was found in the residence of an Abu Sayyaf bandit in Patikul, Sulu, on April 23, 2001.

Several other high-powered firearms were reported missing in inventories made by the AFP in the same years.

According to one document, the M-14 rifles that were recovered in Bataan and Sulu had been issued to Honasan.

The firearms were among the 30 M-14 assault rifles issued to and received by Honasan in three separate memoranda on Nov. 20, 1986, a few days before the alleged "God Save the Queen" coup attempt, one of the many reportedly led by Honasan against then President Corazon Aquino.

"God Save the Queen" led to the dismissal of Juan Ponce Enrile as defense secretary. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

We're not out to grab credit —Sotto

By Christine O. Avendaño

MINORITY Leader Vicente Sotto III yesterday said he and Senators Gregorio Honasan and Rodolfo Biazon were not out to grab credit for their roles in helping to quell last Sunday's mutiny in Makati City by disgruntled junior military officers.

At a news briefing, Sotto said he wanted to set the record straight on the events of Sunday and it was "immaterial" if it was Honasan who had called Malacañang or the other way around.

Who called whom first has become a bone of contention in the aftermath of the failed rebellion because of allegations that Honasan, a former Army officer who had led past coup attempts against the government, was behind this uprising as well.

Sotto said he, Honasan and Biazon had gone to the Oakwood Premier after receiving calls from Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Edgardo Angara "trying to get the three of us to make efforts to talk to the soldiers."

He questioned Senior Deputy Presidential Chief of Staff Rene Velasco's account of the talks between the mutineers and the three senators, as well as Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair Mike Defensor and Velasco himself who had accompanied the lawmakers.

"His (Velasco's) line of thinking is really weird because as early as Sunday morning, Drilon, Angara and De Venecia were calling me and asking if Senators Honasan, Biazon and myself could think of a way to talk to the soldiers...," Sotto told reporters.

He said the three of them went and their mission was to help open a line of communication between the mutineers and the government.

In a news report yesterday, Velasco accused the three senators of muddling the talks and using it to campaign for reelection. He also said the lawmakers appeared to be "spoiling" the mutineers, treating them with kid gloves..

Sotto said he was not a reelectionist, being on his second and last term as a senator which ends in 2004. He also denied being in the vicinity of the Oakwood since 1 p.m. on Sunday, saying he was in the office of Gen. Victor Corpus in Camp Aguinaldo at the time.

He belied Velasco's claim that the senators were "too soft" on the soldiers, saying it was Velasco who had agitated the mutineers "when everything had already subsided" and Ambassador Roy Cimatu was about to enter the talks.

Cimatu later achieved the breakthrough in the negotiations when the rebels agreed to call off their action and submit themselves to the custody of the military.

Sotto recalled that tension rose during their talks when Velasco became angry with the mutineers. He said he called Velasco's attention telling him his statements were uncalled for.

Sotto said Capt. Milo Maestrecampo became agitated and answered Velasco back.

Biazon confirmed Sotto's account, saying he stopped Velasco from "trying to lecture these young officers [telling them] that what they were doing was wrong."

Control your libido, Popcom tells men

By Blanche S. Rivera

LOSE the macho image.

The government yesterday urged Filipino men to help control the country's burgeoning population by controlling their sexual behavior.

The Commission on Population (Popcom) said the Filipino male's penchant for proving his masculinity by siring many children contributes to the unplanned pregnancies of women.

Four out of 10 pregnancies in the Philippines are unplanned, and one of these ends in abortion, which is "unsafe and often fatal," said Popcom Executive Director Tomas Osias.

Osias said nine percent of the country's 10 million married women want to space their childbirths while 11 percent do not want to bear more children, but they do not practice any family planning methods.

"Men account for this huge [lack of family planning] because they usually control the sexual relationship. A man also wants his wife to gift him with children often more than the number she desires. With this situation, couples bear more children than they want," he said.

Studies show Filipino women usually want to have only two to three kids but end up having at least four due to unplanned pregnancies. The Philippines has the highest population growth rate in Southeast Asia with 2.36 percent.

The Department of Health has declared Aug. 1 National Family Planning Day, with the goal of including Filipino men in the campaign for responsible parenthood.

"Family planning is a husband-and-wife responsibility. The quality of life of the family emanates from this partnership," Osias said.

6 Abu bandits fall in S. Kudarat

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The military claimed it arrested six suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits in Palimbang, Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday afternoon.

Col. Edgardo Gurrea, the head of the Joint Task Force Gensan and deputy brigade commander of the Army's 601st Brigade, told reporters that a former Abu Sayyaf kidnap victim had been brought to Palimbang by the military to confirm reports of the bandit group's presence in the town.

Gurrea refused to give any more details, saying he was still waiting for a go-signal from the 601st Army brigade commander Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano.

Yano was in Palimbang supervising the manhunt operations of the government forces against the bandits reportedly led by Khaddafy Janjalani.

For security reasons, Gurrea refused to give the name of the former Abu Sayyaf hostage who helped the military.

The six suspects were reportedly trying to escape in a motorized banca when soldiers caught them somewhere in the boundary of Barangays Kraan and Libua.

It was not clear whether the suspects were carrying weapons when arrested by the military.

Palimbang Mayor Labualas Mamansual claimed, however, that those arrested were not members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said one of the arrested men was a barangay councilor of Libua.

He identified the six men who were arrested by the military as barangay kagawad Jaman Sayadi, Blah Jamal, Sulaiman Piang, Gaino Piang, Akmad Samaludin and Magui Gani. The six are all residents of Barangay Libua.

He said Barangay Libua chair Mudyo Ungad had actually accompanied the six civilians when they were invited by the military.

"I knew them personally because they are my constituents. As far as I know they are peace-loving citizens with nothing derogatory in their records," the mayor claimed.

The six suspects are now in the custody of the Joint Task Force Gensan and undergoing tactical interrogation.

Gurrea said they will be turned over to the police for the filing of appropriate charges after the interrogation is concluded.

Earlier this month, the military confirmed that about 54 heavily armed Abu Sayyaf bandits led by Janjalani had landed in Barangay Libua.

Military officials believe that the Abu Sayyaf had escaped from Basilan to South Cotabato by way of Zamboanga de Norte because of the massive military operations against the group in Basilan and Jolo.

They arrived in Palimbang on board the three pump boats and were met by Alo Binago, a leader of a local kidnap-for-ransom group, the Abu Sufia. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Sulpicio strike ends

STRIKING seafarers of the Sulpicio Lines Inc. went back to work yesterday claiming victory.

A union official said that the strike, which started on July 29, had stopped the operations of 24 of the 29 cargo and passenger vessels of the second largest shipping firm in the country.

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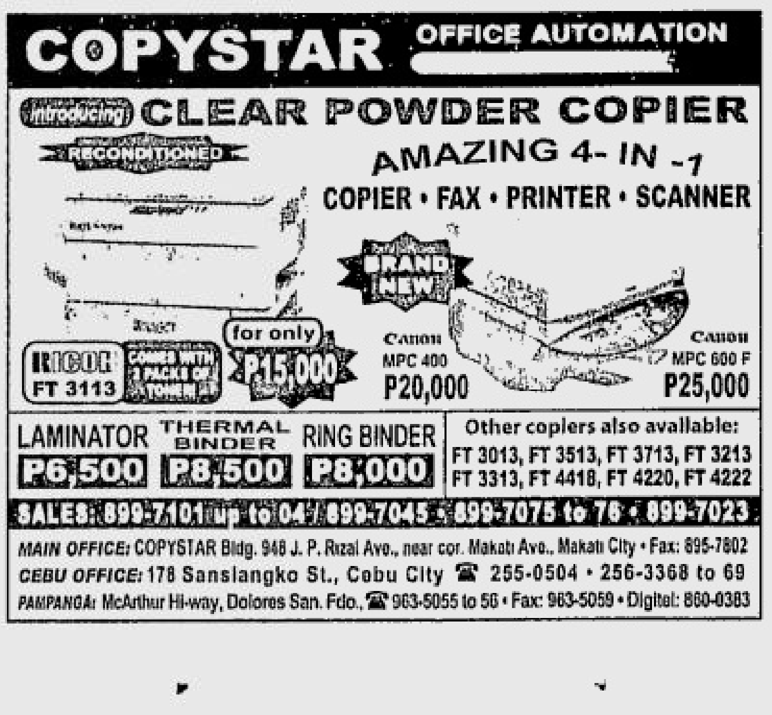
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MILF in the dark on start of KL talks

THE SEPARATIST Moro Islamic Liberation Front yesterday denied a government statement that formal peace talks would resume in Kuala Lumpur this weekend, or Monday at the latest, saying they had not been informed of it by the Malaysian government.

Ebrahim Murad, the MILF's chief negotiator, said the rebel group has yet to be told of the date and venue of the talks by Malaysia which is acting as the third-party mediator.

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said the talks could open as early as Saturday while Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Taufik said he had been informed by Eduardo Ermita, the chief government negotiator, that the talks would start on Monday.

Murad said the resumption of the peace talks was inevitable because Malaysia was very eager to mediate.

"But we cannot exactly tell when. We would not want to speculate on the dates," he said.

Murad said the rebel panel was ready to fly to Kuala Lumpur anytime once Malaysia gives the go-signal.

The government and the rebels have already resolved all the technical obstacles to the resumption of the talks.

The government agreed to lift the arrest warrants against MILF leaders accused of involvement in the bombings in Davao City early this year. The two sides also signed a ceasefire agreement.

Malaysia has agreed to send a monitoring team to the Philippines to ensure that the truce is observed.

Last year, government negotiators and the MILF signed several accords, including a ceasefire and the establishment of a Bangsamoro Development Coordinating Agency to oversee the rehabilitation of areas damaged by the long-drawn conflict. *Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Today's *WHAT'S NEWS* questions:

1. Which group visited Quiapo in April 2003, went on a food trip, dissected a cart of slimming teas and other "medicines", and found affordable items for *fashionistas*?
   a. F4
   b. 2BU! Correspondents
   c. Sex Bomb Dancers
   d. G Girls
2. It is a magazine in broadsheet format. The most interesting people and personalities leave their mark in its pages so make sure to grab a copy of it every Sunday.
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   c. Sunday Inquirer Magazine
   d. Entertainment
   e. Metro
3. He is the country's most respected journalist, author of the column "Analysis".
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   b. Amando Doronila
   c. Ramon Reyes III
   d. Esteban dela Cruz
4. This weekday publication is distributed for FREE in MRT, LRT, WG&A Super Ferry, and now in NAIA I.
   a. Libreng Sakay
   b. Inquirer Libre
   c. Balitang Free
   d. None of the above
5. Which Hollywood actress recently got married?
   a. Liv Tyler
   b. Drew Barrymore
   c. Jennifer Lover
   d. Kirsten Dunst

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POWER SHARING

Senate opposition rejects 'crumbs'

By Michael Lim Ubac

"WE are not asking for crumbs," Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday as he slammed the Senate ruling bloc for offering the little-known committee on urban planning, housing and resettlement to the opposition.

In fact, Angara claimed, before the Upper House adjourned on June 6, Senate President Franklin Drilon promised the chairmanships of at least four standing committees—blue ribbon, justice and human rights, education and energy—to the opposition. The energy committee was specifically offered to Sen. John Osmeña, he added.

As he understood it, Angara said, "there will be a unity Senate" in exchange for these committees. "There will be no dispute over leadership."

He did not say if Drilon's offer was backed by the entire ruling bloc. In any case, he said, "I don't think I'm violating confidences (by divulging Drilon's pledge)."

On Wednesday, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said administration senators had yet to decide on the fate of the energy committee.

Pangilinan admitted that the decision to "offer the housing committee" came in the heels of manifestations by opposition Senators Vicente Sotto III and Aquilino Pimentel that the ruling bloc should give vacant committees to the minority.

But Angara stressed that the two solons' move was meant only to achieve "equitable distribution of work" in the Upper House.

The decision to give up the housing committee was arrived at during a caucus of the majority bloc on Tuesday night.

Eight of the 12 administration senators opted to let go of housing but retained their tight grip on the committee on education. The powerful committee, left vacant by the sudden death of Sen. Renato Cayetano and eyed by opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, will go to Pangilinan.

There were more than 30 standing committees, Pangilinan explained, and only 22 senators. "There really is a need to farm out committee chairmanships."

Pangilinan chairs two other committees—ethics and privileges, and justice and human rights.

The failure to appease a restive minority yesterday became evident after Sen. Vicente Sotto III, minority leader, hinted that a Senate shakeup was in the offing.

He noted that only 10 administration senators were handling all the standing committees. "If we really want to be effective in the (next) five months," Sotto said, "we will have to somehow redistribute (the committees)."

Angara presses party reform law

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Edgardo Angara yesterday asked Senate colleagues to pass the campaign finance and political party reform bill in time for the national elections next year.

"This, to me, is a major component of the modernization and reform of the electoral law. This is a reform that we need prior to the big day in 2004," Angara said at a press conference.

Senate Bill No. 2442, or the proposed Political Party Development Act, seeks to prevent turncoats from changing political parties, impose a cap on campaign donations and provide for a state subsidy to electoral candidates.

A priority bill of President Macapagal-Arroyo, the measure had been approved by the Senate committees on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws, finance and ways and means as early as December 2002.

But it has yet to be calendared for plenary debate, said Angara.

The measure, if enacted, will put a cap or limit on individual and corporate donations to political parties.

Private contributions will be limited to P1,000, while a cap of P1 million will be placed on corporate donations.

Angara said the bill has devised a system that would ensure that the donations would be reported.

"If you intend to donate to a political party, you must deposit it to their account in the bank . . . That way, we ensure accountability of the fund and transparency of the donation," he said.

As for turncoats, he said that elected officials cannot change parties because once they change parties "you forfeit your position under whose banner you were elected."

Also, the turncoat could be disqualified for reelection or ineligible to hold administrative or elective political positions.

"So there is now a real concrete price to pay if you become a *balimbing* [turncoat] because the bane of *balimbingan*[turncoatism] in this country is the one weakening the fiber of our party system," said Angara.

This also prevented the growth of an institutional party system, he said.

He said politics in the country was "just an opportunity for personal and political advantage rather than belonging to a party because you want that political party to advance the interest of the country."

Angara pointed out that the bill also proposed a state subsidy to political parties.

Cruise liner wants RP laws to settle claims

MIAMI—A judge must decide whether the families of eight Filipino sailors killed in a boiler explosion on the cruise ship Norway can pursue their wrongful-death suits in the United States or the Philippines.

Norwegian Cruise Line insists the sailors' Filipino contracts require arbitration of death and injury claims in the Philippines, but attorneys for crew members say maritime law dating back to the 1700s guarantees US court review.

Eight sailors died as a result of a boiler room explosion aboard the 1,035-foot (310-meter) liner May 25, and 18 crew members were injured in the blast at the ship's Miami dock. At least one of the victim's families is suing for $1 billion in damages.

The cruise company wants the dispute to be treated as a matter of contract law under the Philippine Overseas Employment Act. Seamen contend Norwegian is trying to avoid its responsibility.

US District Judge Patricia Seitz allowed interested groups to file "friend of the court" papers by Tuesday to give the issue a full airing. She won't decide the issue before Aug. 15.

The 4,000-member Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers and the Florida Admiralty Trial Lawyers submitted papers supporting the seamen and accusing Norwegian of trying to manipulate Philippine law in its favor. *AP*

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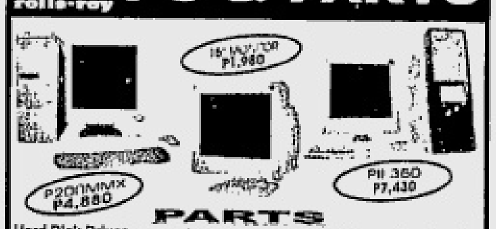

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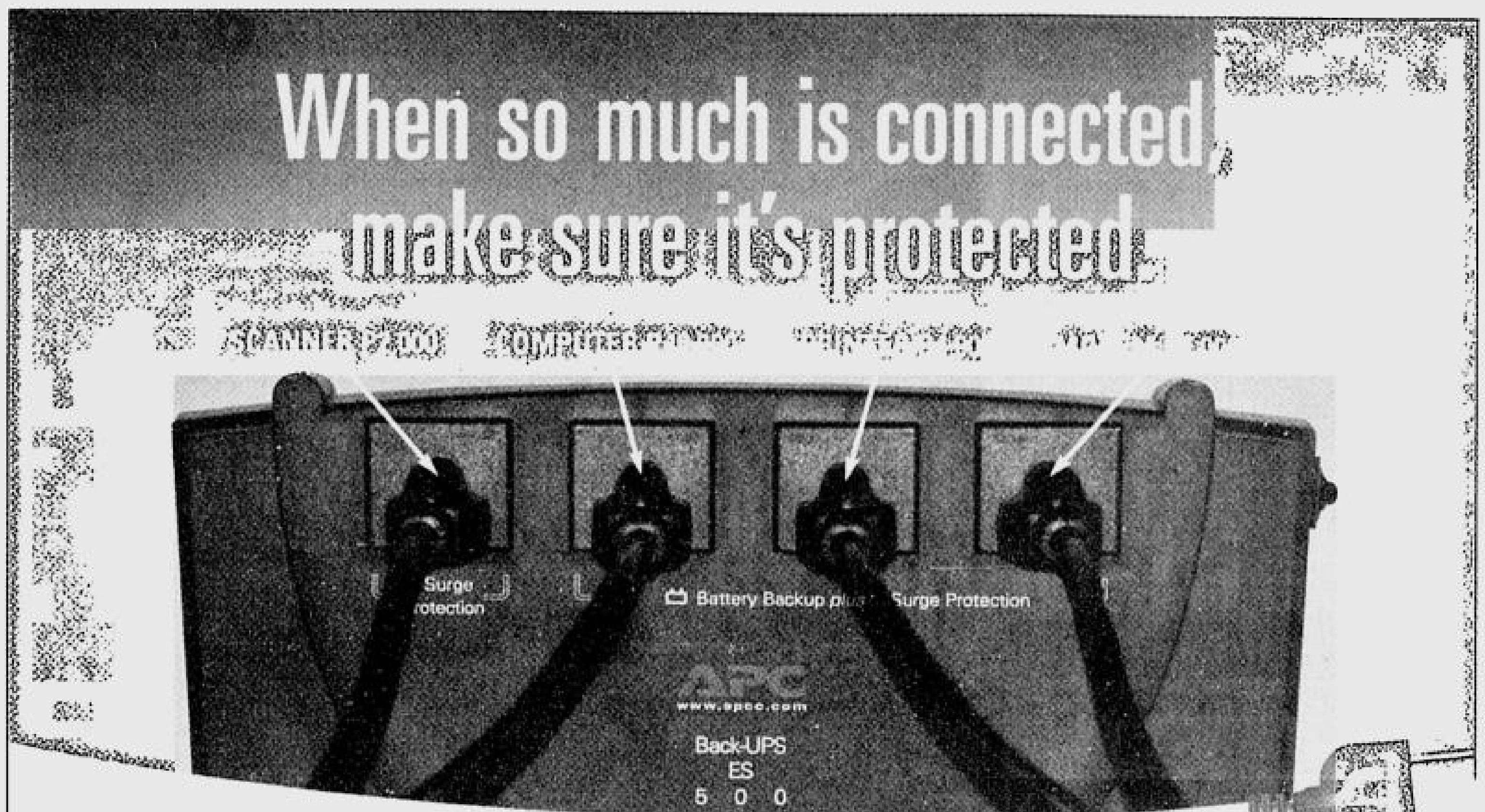

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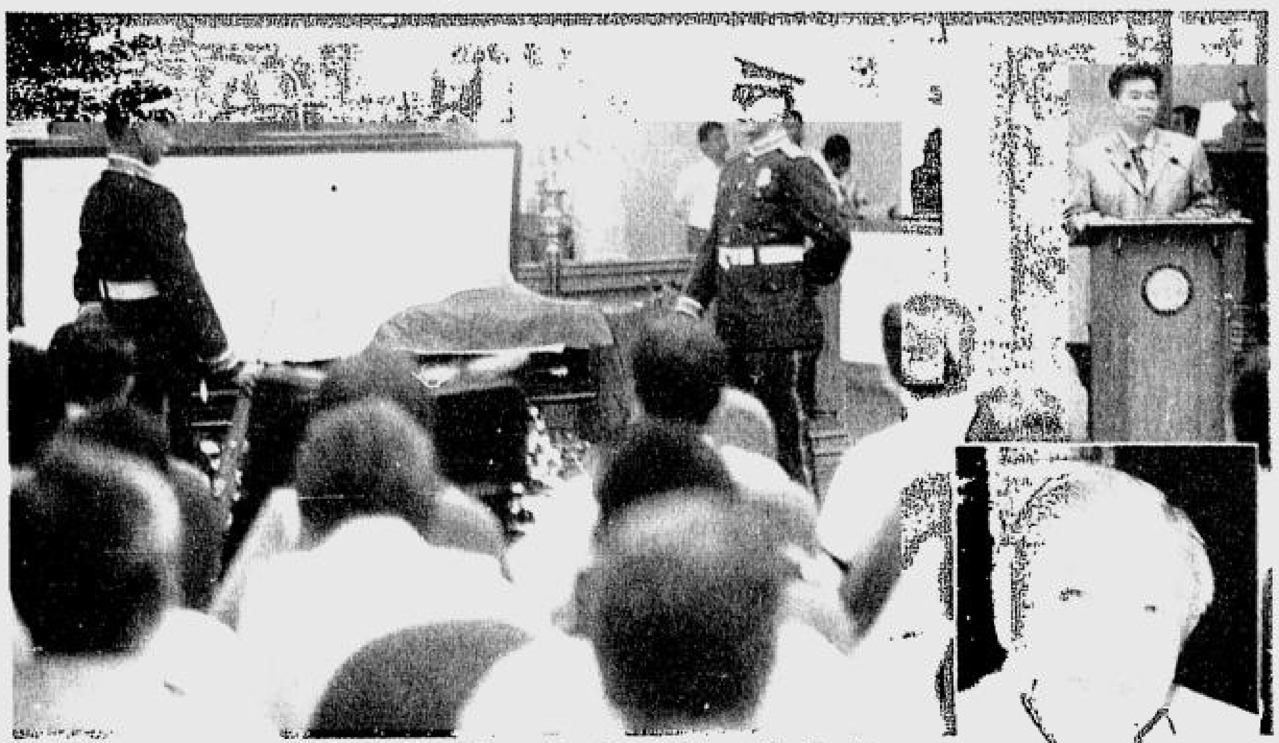


EULOGY. Senate President Franklin Drilon delivers his eulogy on former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez during yesterday's necrological rites at the Senate. Pelaez (inset), who died on Sunday, was also a former senator and secretary of foreign affairs.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Pelaez hailed as model Filipino

By Christine O. Avendaño

HE suffered speech difficulties and was half-paralyzed from earlier strokes, but the late former Vice-President Emmanuel Pelaez managed to show that he was "at his happiest" last month when he learned that the Supreme Court had ordered the return of coconut levy funds to the farmers.

This was disclosed yesterday by his son Ernesto during necrological rites at the Senate. Pelaez, second in command to the late President Diosdado Macapagal and also a former senator, died Sunday.

"His greatest satisfaction would have been to witness the actual return of the money to the farmers," said Ernesto, who spoke for the family after eulogies by senators led by Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Vice-President Teofisto Guingona joined the solons in paying their last respects to "Maning," whom they exulted as "Mindanao's most eminent politician," a "model Filipino," and an "outstanding statesman."

The others who offered sympathies to Pelaez' widow, Edith, and her family were: Senators Edgardo Angara, Loren Legarda, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Vicente Sotto III, John Osmeña and Rodolfo Biazon; former senators Leticia Shahani, Jovito Salonga and Wigberto Tañada.

The son of a coconut farmer in Mindanao, Pelaez championed the cause of coconut farmers nationwide in the late 1970s under the Marcos regime.

Ernesto recalled the infamous attempt on his father's life in 1982. Pelaez, who had just proven "that farmers could get better prices in the world market" than from a monopoly condoned by the government, suffered gunshot wounds.

At the hospital, Pelaez asked then Quezon City Police chief Gen. Tomas Karingal, "General, what is happening to our country?"

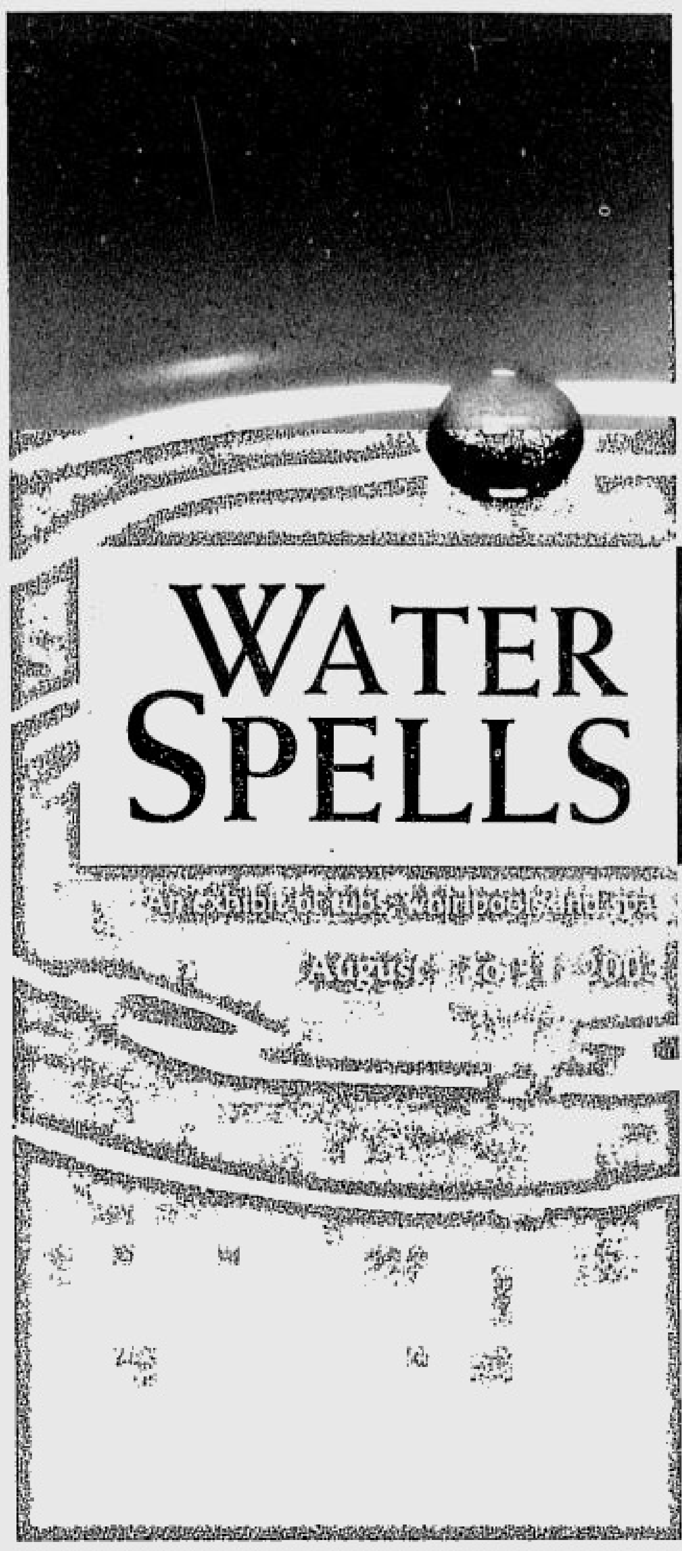
In his eulogy, Drilon said these words came back to him last Sunday, when disgruntled military officers mounted a mutiny. Even today, Drilon said, the words described government leaders' "exasperation, if not desperation," whenever a crisis "threatens the stability of our democratic institutions."

Guingona said people would remember Pelaez not only for those "immortal" words, but also for "his heady smile, laughter in mirth, vibrant voice in debate, and helping hand."

Pelaez campaigned for Corazon Aquino in 1985. Ernesto said this made his father a "natural choice" for ambassador to the United States when Aquino won.

Ernesto served as ambassador's aide in the US. He remembered that his father was in favor of the US bases pullout.

But "unlike his peers in Manila," the son said, Pelaez didn't think it was "if the Americans didn't pay up (that) they should pull out. He did not believe in negotiations based on dollars and cents."



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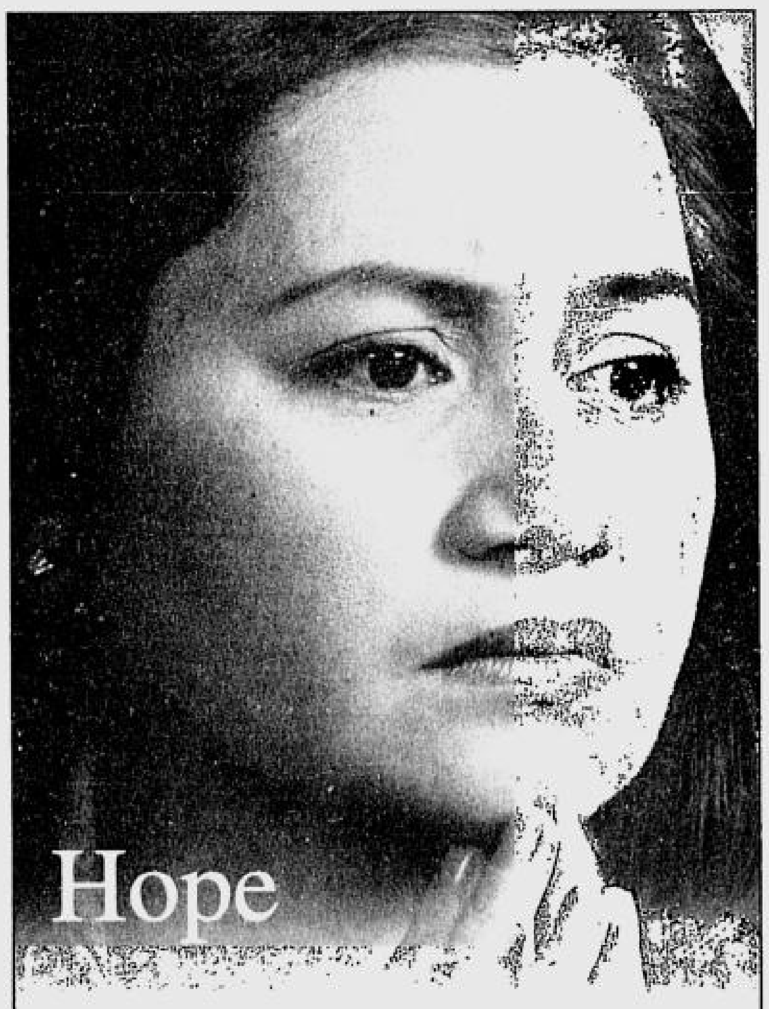

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1. Folkers K, Brown R, Judy WV, et al.: *Survival of cancer patients on therapy with coenzyme Q10.* Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 192(1): 241-245, 1993.
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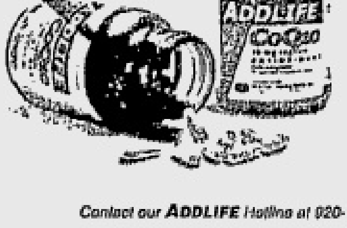

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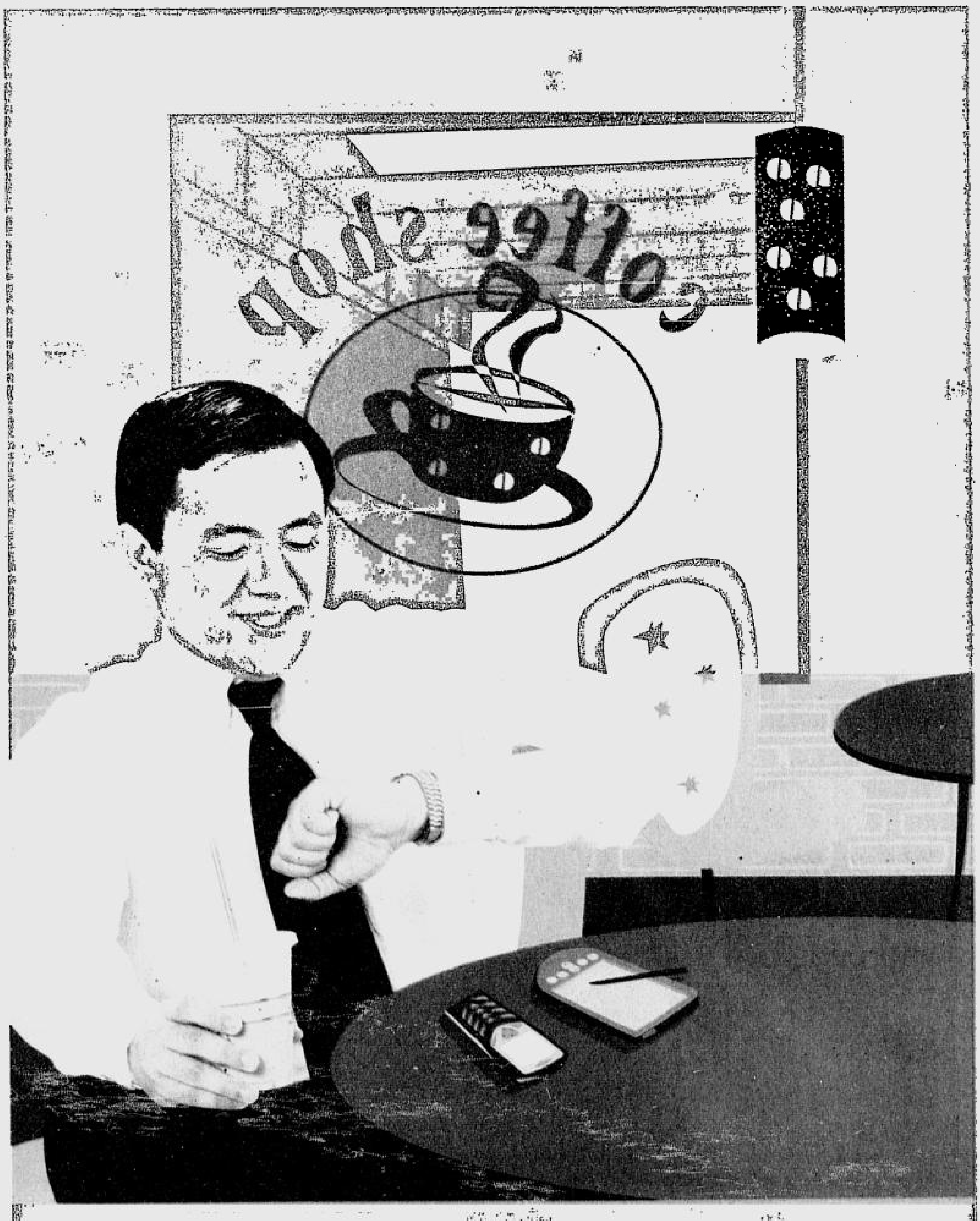

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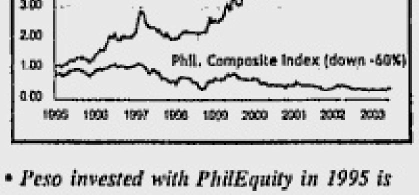

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Anti-crime group assails church on death penalty

By Blanche S. Rivera

ANTI-CRIME crusaders yesterday rapped the influential Catholic Church for its anti-death penalty stance despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to revive the death penalty for dealers and traffickers of illegal drugs.

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said that Church leaders should not interfere in the anticipated lifting of the moratorium on judicial executions.

VACC founding chair Dante Jimenez said the response of the President to the Church's anti-death penalty crusade would indicate what her plans are for 2004.

If she changes her stance about imposing the death penalty on drug traffickers, then she is running, Jimenez said in a phone interview.

The President declared a moratorium on judicial executions last year to pacify the anti-death penalty lobbyists led by Church officials.

But following a high-profile war against illegal drugs that she announced last month, she said in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) at Congress last Monday that she would impose capital punishment on those involved in drug dealing and trafficking.

The influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines vowed to lobby anew against the execution of those already on Death Row following the President's Sona announcement.

Jimenez said that he was not worried that the Catholic clergy could sway the President as they did last year because the Church's influence on politicians has largely waned amid the various sexual misconduct controversies involving priests and bishops.

He said there would be a change of mind only if the President decides to run next year and would need the support of the largely Catholic population.

The VACC, which has 5,000 members, said the President's recent pronouncement on the death penalty was "a very good decision... (and) a very effective way to deter the commission of heinous crimes." He also proposed that the law be amended to impose capital punishment on coup plotters.

Hold order for Al-Ghozi

THE BUREAU of Immigration yesterday issued a hold-departure order against Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and nine others, including one identified as Col. Efren Torres.

The order came two weeks after Al-Ghozi, with Abu Sayyaf detainees Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal, walked out of the Intelligence Group compound in Camp Crame.

Authorities earlier said they believed Al-Ghozi was holed up somewhere in Mindanao.

Al-Ghozi, together with eight others in the HDO, are accused of planning and carrying out the Rizal Day (Dec. 30) 2000 bombings.

The eight others are Indonesians Abubakar Bafana Faiz and Isamuddin "Hambali" Raduan, Zainal Paks, Salman Moro, Ustad Said, Mohammad Amir, Sammy Arinday and Moklis Hadji Yunos, a member of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Except for Yunos, who is in police custody, and Bafana who is detained in Singapore, all the suspects are at large.

The BI could not explain why Torres was in the list. *Martin P. Marfil*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

THE DAILY GOSPEL
Friday, August 1, 2003
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Lev 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37
Gospel: Mt 13:54-58

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary

"They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son?" It would have been completely understandable if these were merely expressions of surprise and amazement coming from Jesus' townmates. Sadly, they were more than that. For behind the surprise, was really a much more deep-seated disbelief. "How could this man, who is no more than a carpenter's son, be lecturing us about these things?" What was even more sad was the fact that these biased and prejudiced words were spoken by individuals who would most likely have known Jesus since boyhood. The very familiarity which should have made them appreciate him, made them blind to him instead. The very knowledge they thought they had of him led them to put him in a box with the label "carpenter's son," "Mary's son," "brother of so and so." That was the saddest fact of them all. There are many times in our lives when we do the very same thing. We put people in boxes and label them in ways that make it easier for us to categorize them: "good," "bad," "annoying," "uninteresting." And if that's not tragic enough, we even put ourselves in boxes as well. The challenge of the gospel reading today is simple: We must approach life for what it is, and not put others, ourselves, and even God, in neat and tidy boxes with labels.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Revised Rule on Summary Procedure—The Revised Rule on Summary Procedure was promulgated specifically to achieve an expeditious and inexpensive determination of cases. In allowing the submission of the accused's counter-affidavits after 130 days from notice, respondent judge violated the Rule. He should have observed that Section 12(b) of the Rule provides that the court shall issue an order "which shall require the accused to submit his counter-affidavit and the affidavits of his witnesses" x x x "not later than ten (10) days from receipt of said order." Section 19(e) of the same Rule also provides that a motion for extension to file affidavits is prohibited. Clearly, these provisions are mandatory. When the law or rule is clear, there is no room for interpretation and judges have no option but to obey. Thus, the respondent judge is administratively liable for violation of the Supreme Court Rules, specifically the Revised Rule on Summary Procedure. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, Third Division, Carriaga v. Anasario, A.M. No. MTJ-02-1403. February 3, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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Execute ruling on Marcos funds, high court asked

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday asked the Supreme Court to make "final and executory" its landmark decision on the $682 million Marcos Swiss deposits held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

The Solicitor General also asked the high court to issue a "writ of execution" to enforce its July 15 ruling which forfeited the money, part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, in favor of the government.

Compelling circumstances

Citing relevant provisions of the Rules of Court, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said the SC can already declare its decision as final and executory even if the Marcoses were to appeal it, because of the "compelling" circumstances—the length of time that the case has been pending and the public interest involved.

"Owing to the far-reaching historical and political implications of this case, the public interest as well as the urgency involved in this case is unquestionable," Benipayo said.

"It is repugnant to all sense of fairness and justice to further withhold from the Filipino people the money which this honorable court has definitively declared to belong to them," he said.

He said the funds would not only benefit the agrarian reform program but also the rights abuse victims of the Marcos repression.

But this can be done only if the decision is "executed without delay," he said.

'Cunning tactics'

He said the fact that the Marcoses had employed "cunning tactics" to delay the proceedings should be one good reason for the high court to order the execution of its decision although the case was still pending.

He said that the revised Rules of Court allow the high court to issue a writ of execution, even if there is a pending motion for reconsideration, if "good reasons" exist.

"Good reasons consist of compelling circumstances justifying immediate execution lest the judgment becomes illusory or the prevailing party after the lapse of time may be unable to enjoy the fruits of legislation considering the tactics of the adverse party who apparently has no case and intends merely to delay," Benipayo said.

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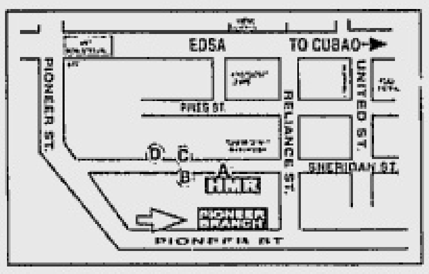

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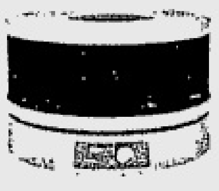

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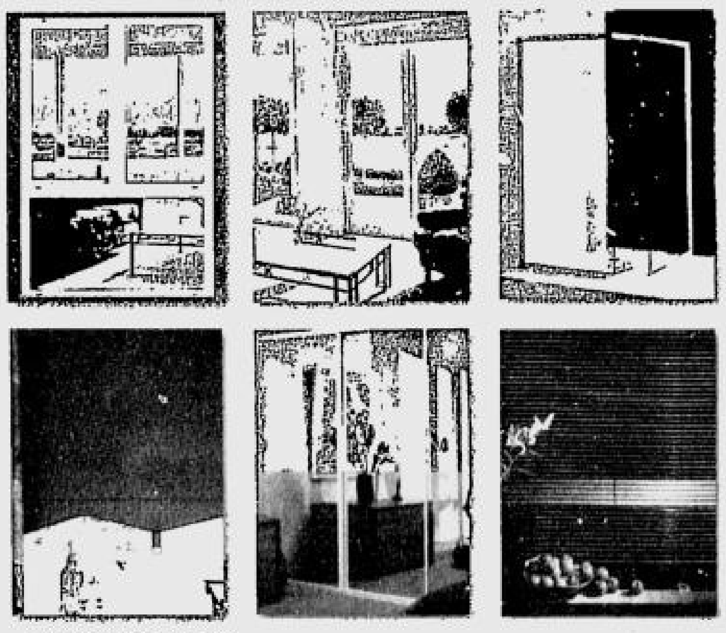

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A TIME TO REFLECT
Part 2

With a sigh of relief, we thank the President, together with the government negotiating panel and others, for resolving in one day the mutiny carried out by misguided military officers without bloodshed and damage to property.

In the business sector, we are, also, pleased that the present Administration has scored gains in the fight against graft and corruption, especially in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. This is a concrete and solid way to discourage graft and corruption and **set the moral tone** for the citizenry, particularly the professionals and the businessmen, to pay correct taxes.

We urge Congress to allow the following four independent commissions to complete their task within 30 to 45 days and to submit their findings and recommendations to the President **before the House and Senate conducts its own investigation.**

- An Independent Fact-Finding Commission that will determine how convicted Al-Ghozi escaped and submit its findings and comprehensive recommendations after 30 days.
- A three-member Independent Commission that will investigate the root cause of the military mutiny as they signal the problems that must be addressed.
- A Philippine National Reform Commission that will revamp the Philippine National Police (PNP) now that their image has been badly tarnished by Al-Ghozi's escape.
- A commission that will investigate the bombing in Davao.

Lastly, we are urging everyone to heed the appeal of the President to the joint Houses and the entire nation for unity.

"I need you. We need each other."

Yes. Now, more than ever, we need to be one and pull together to respond to the challenge of survival. There is no other choice.

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•100% soy ink•

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Knight's sacrifice

EDITORIAL

ONE down, two to go. The young officers who mounted the weekend mutiny in Makati had demanded the heads of three top military and police officials, and for now they seem to have gotten one: that of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Corpus resigned on Monday, but top officials scrambled to deny the mutineers this pyrrhic belated victory. National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the resignation was unrelated to the renegade officers' demand and had been under consideration for at least a month. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said the same thing, stressing that "it was not due to any pressure."

But there it was, clear as day, the cause and effect in Corpus' resignation letter. "In chess, when a queen is beleaguered it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice a knight to save the game," he wrote. "I feel that the restiveness will not calm down with my continued presence."

What is less clear is whether the knight's sacrifice or keeping him is the better way to save the queen.

The mutineers claimed Corpus was in Davao last April when the Sasa wharf was bombed, killing 16 people. One of them recalled that he had been given orders by a superior officer to also bomb mosques in Davao. All this meant, they said, that either Corpus had a hand in the bombings or he was incompetent.

Corpus has, of course, denied that he had directed the Davao bombings. But the young rebel officers could not have missed the irony in the fact that the intelligence chief whom they called incompetent played a key role in crushing their pocket rebellion. For all his rather shoddy intelligence work in the past, Corpus was on the ball as far as this latest attempt at a power grab was concerned.

The briefing Corpus gave to leaders of civil society on the eve of the coup attempt was as detailed and accurate as any intelligence work could be expected to be. He disclosed that the plot had been uncovered in June when junior officers were being recruited to join a coup. Then there was a series of meetings, including one on June 12 where the plotters carved the old letter "K" on their left arm and signed with their blood an oath of allegiance as "new Filipino heroes." And finally he traced the movements of several rebel leaders and their units as they moved to Metro Manila.

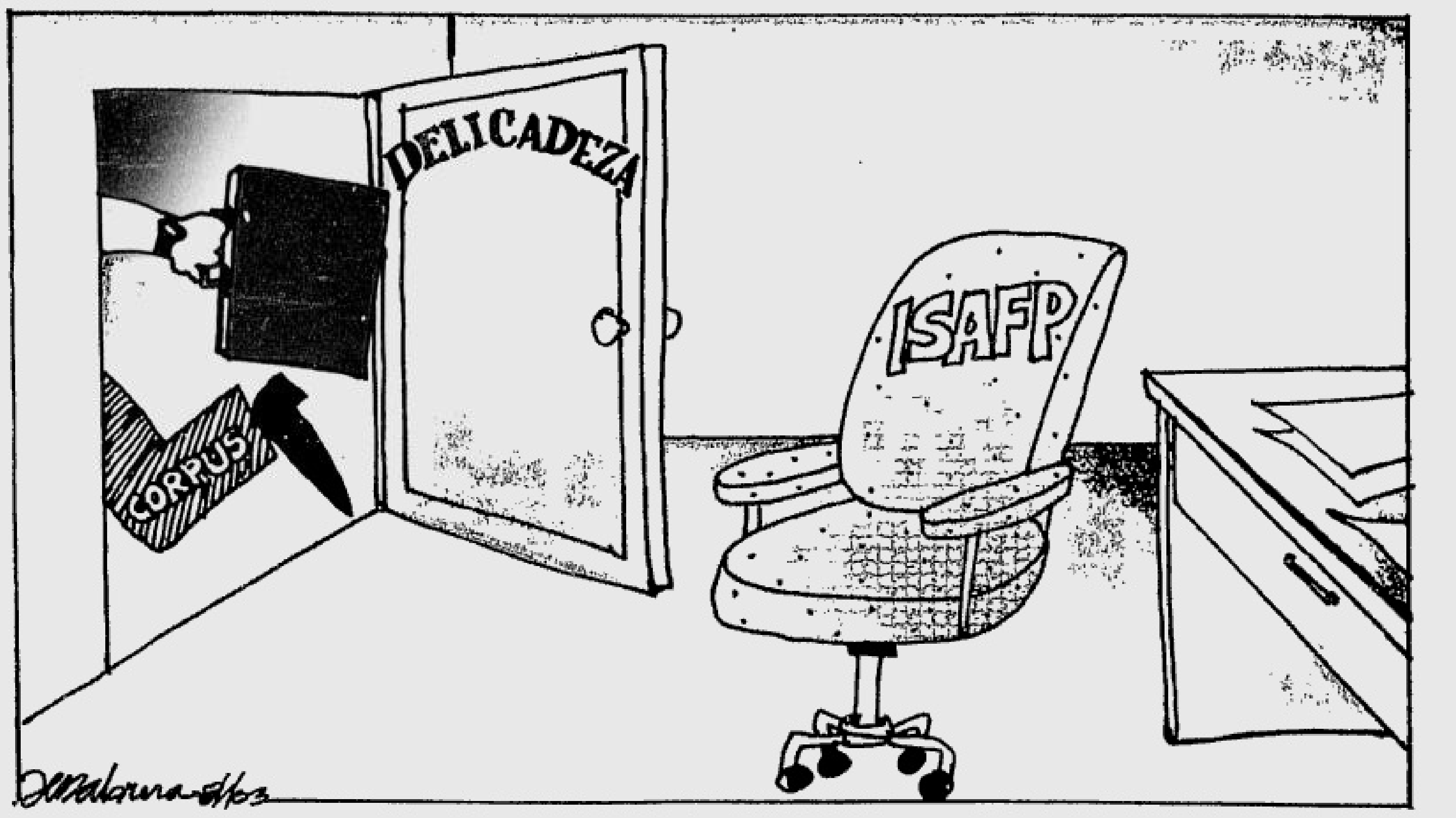
It was because of such superior intelligence work that President Macapagal-Arroyo was able to at least try to defuse the situation by meeting with some of the young officers to listen to their grievances as well as tell Jaime Cardinal Sin and a select group that a coup would be mounted that very same weekend. And such intelligence must have helped the government prepare the appropriate response when the coup was finally launched.

Given Corpus' spotty record as intelligence chief or even as a military man, it may be difficult to find an achievement worthier than this. Neither is it very reassuring to the public that he left his post even as the threat of a coup has not completely blown over. Abaya has admitted that no one could say categorically that there is no more threat of a coup. Corpus himself said, "The current political crisis is far from over."

Why then is he leaving at such a risky, if not perilous, time? Does placating a restive segment of the military (which has been defanged, at least for the moment, with the crushing of their uprising) take precedence over keeping the intelligence service running smoothly at this critical time?

If someone's head had to roll, why did it have to be Corpus'? The renegades also called for the sacking of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes allegedly for corruption and PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane because of the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur al-Ghozi, which embarrassed the nation before the international community and heightened the threat of terrorism. So why is President Macapagal keeping them or why are they hanging on to their jobs?

Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao said the President was "touched by the nobility of General Corpus and his principled stand." Several opposition senators praised him for his sense of honor and *delicadeza*. Nobility of character, principles, honor, *delicadeza*—all these are virtues that are taught and cherished in the profession of arms. Some officers and gentlemen imbibe and abide by them. Others don't.



Don't ignore warnings of more coups

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

DON'T belittle the warning of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, the resigned military intelligence chief, that the "political crisis is far from over." Meaning, there would be more coup attempts. It was Corpus who correctly predicted to the day the failed coup attempt in Makati last Sunday. It was he who warned Malacañang and civil society of the impending coup.

I know people, especially politicians, have been laughing at Corpus' intelligence reports ever since he presented Rosebud and Ador Mawanay as sources and witnesses in the drug and secret bank account charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. But since he accurately knew of the Makati coup try, that proves he knows what he is talking about. In contrast, many of the top armed forces generals and politicians poohpoohed the reports of troop movements and an impending coup and were caught flatfooted.

You will note that I keep referring to the Makati adventure as a "coup attempt" and not a "mutiny" as many are now calling it.

I think it was really an attempted coup, an attempt to depose President Macapagal-Arroyo and take over the government. That was what the rebels were demanding in the beginning—for GMA to step down. It was only later, when it was obvious that the putsch was going to fail, that the rebels insisted on calling their caper a "mutiny" which has a lesser offense than a "coup."

When they admitted media into Oakwood for interviews, one of the first things that the rebel leader, Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV, kept emphasizing was that "first of all, this is not a coup. It is a mutiny." Most likely, this (mutiny) was Plan B in the event Plan A (coup) failed. There are reports saying that the rebels already had a plan for a "junta," with some opposition legislators as members.

What did the rebels hope to achieve by holding up in Oakwood if their motive was only to air their grievances? They could have easily called a press conference and media would have come running and played up their accusations. It was big, serious news.

Besides, they had already aired their grievances to the President who immediately ordered defense and armed forces officials to attend to them.

From a tactical point of view, Oakwood is a poor choice for a siege. According to military tacticians, it is worse than the Alamo whose defenders, despite their bravery, were all killed. Oakwood can easily be surrounded and isolated and covered from the neighboring tall buildings. There is no means of escape or entry for reinforcements and supplies. The rebels were obviously expecting help.

It looked like they were trying to repeat the 1986 People Power Revolution, when rebels holed up in Camp Crame were later reinforced by other units and surrounded by hundreds of thousands of civilian sympathizers to protect them from Marcos loyalists.

The 1989 failed coup was also attempted in Makati where rebels holed up in high-rise buildings. Last Sunday's mutiny bore shadows of the 1989 coup, which could be a clue as to who planned last Sunday's "mutiny" in Makati.

The latest putsch could have been a repeat of the 1986 revolt had not anti-riot policemen quickly blocked all streets leading to the Ayala Commercial Center as civilian groups were already marching toward that direction. But no additional units joined the rebels, perhaps recognizing the weakness of their position. In fact, one unit of 50 rebels quickly surrendered as the first deadline approached.

* * *

But the government should not belittle the warning of Trillanes that the military unrest is not yet over. "There are others of us whom you have not detected," he said, meaning, they can easily mount another coup. The graft and corruption in the armed forces is now well-known. If you were a soldier being paid peanuts to risk your life fighting against subversives, shooting you with government-issued bullets sold to them by corrupt brother officers, you would easily succumb to invitations to join a rebellion.

The rebels themselves have admitted that there are top-ranking commanders trying to stamp out corruption. But it so happens they are outnumbered by the corrupt officers. Maybe, the President should find out and change the corrupt with the incorruptible.

Maybe, the problem with the AFP is that it has too many generals who sit in armchairs and too few junior officers and enlisted men who do the fighting. It has too many retired generals continuing to enjoy privileges that should go to those still in the active service.

Housing is one. Many retired officers are still occupying housing units that should already be for those in active service. How can we expect soldiers to be loyal to the armed forces when they live in shanties and the housing units they are entitled to are occupied by retired officers?

Pay is another. Retired officers are already handsomely paid, receiving for doing nothing many times more than what is received by soldiers risking their lives, fighting insurgents.

It may be ironic, but perhaps our greatest enemy is not the insurgents but some ranking officers in the AFP.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Here are two questions for us to ponder:

1. Why is it that whenever we have a woman President, the pricks in the military rise?
2. Why does our country remain poor when we have the best government officials, politicians, policemen and soldiers that money can buy?

If you build it, they won't come

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU don't know whether to laugh or cry. That is, at Malacañang's explanation for why only a gaggle of people went to Edsa to, as Jaime Cardinal Sin put it, "move to whatever action may be called for and necessary to guard our President and the legitimate government and to keep our nation in the way of peace." Dodie Limcaoco's explanation in particular is that the people did not heed Sin's call because they did not need to. They were confident his boss was perfectly capable of taking care of herself.

Well, by that logic, the civil society groups that came out in support of Corazon Aquino when her regime was being buffeted by coup after coup were completely distrustful of the capabilities of the person who toppled Marcos. By that logic, Cardinal Sin, by having the cheek to ask the faithful to mass at the Edsa Shrine, would have been guilty of doubt or lack of faith in the President who came to power without having to fight for it. Talk of turning a bad thing into a good thing. This one beats them all.

It wasn't just Cardinal Sin, in fact, who issued the call. I saw several civil society leaders, ex and current, also asking people to come to Edsa to keep vigil over our freedoms and defend our democratic way of life, whichever came first, or more lucratively. From where I stood, or sat glued to the TV, it looked more than anything else like a loyalty check among the civil society groups or individuals who had benefited from the GMA administration. As it turned out, few of them had the decency to be grateful. Well, you know who your friends are: they're the ones who turn out in your hour of need.

In fact, it's not very hard to see why Sin's and the civil society groups' intended blockbuster at Edsa bombed out, pun fully intended.

The most immediate explanation for it is that everyone was taken by surprise. The coup was a bolt from the blue. No one was prepared for it psychologically. There was nothing during the whole day of Saturday to suggest any political storm was brewing, except for those who got text messages in the afternoon saying Malacañang had called for an emergency Cabinet meeting at 4 p.m. to discuss the coup. I was one of them. But I didn't think much of it until early evening when the text messages flew thick and fast that the coup was really about to take place. That very night, the messages warned.

Even the pro-Erap groups seemed stunned. I saw a gaggle of them as well trickling into Ayala, unfurling signs espousing "National Recovery." But they weren't even a whisper of "Edsa III," which lends very little credence to the Erap angle in the coup. If Erap had a hand in it, trust his hordes to have come out full force. There would at least have been preparations for it. No, this one caught everybody with his pants down, figuratively or literally.

But that doesn't explain everything. There was enough time the following day, Sunday, when the real crisis erupted, for the Edsa II forces to have come out and flocked to Edsa if they wanted to. That did not happen. The only explanation for it is that they did not want to.

Bishop Socrates Villegas, Sin's alter ego, should have known what would happen. Days earlier, he had complained about people not dancing in the streets to greet government's apparent successes in recovering ill-gotten wealth. That alone would have showed him how the public felt about the GMA administration. Recovering ill-gotten wealth is only the beginning of things, it is not the end of them. It is good only in so far as what was ill-gotten was well-used afterwards. Or in so far as it was not well-forgotten afterwards, slipping quietly into Mike Arroyo's pockets, or worse being used to fund GMA's campaign. People did not dance gloriously in the streets not because they had sore feet; they did not do so because they were sore at Gloria.

What doomed Sin and Villegas' project from the start was that they had spoken in ardent and personal defense of GMA. No one could buy their call on general principles afterwards—as a defense of the presidency, or democracy, or "the way of peace." Their call tooted a defense of GMA, of her "strong republic," of the way of war.

Indeed, the people representing civil society, ex or current, should have known what would happen. Kompil and Pagbabago should have seen it coming from the joke their organizations have turned out to be. Kompil has become a gathering only of the *kompilmadong kumita* or certified beneficiaries of the P1.4 billion bribe to civil society known as the Peace Bonds. And if anything has changed for Pagbabago, it is only the fortunes of its most prominent members, not those of this country's most impoverished sectors. It's not just that their claim to representing civil society has been frayed, it is that they have given civil society itself a reputation for being uncivil and unsocial. A reputation for being uncivil in particular in all the senses of the word: not least in the fundamental sense of having ceased to defend civilian supremacy and civil liberties, accepting instead the way of war and the sway of warlords.

I've been saying it again and again. You cannot draw the line at the war in Iraq and the war in Mindanao, you cannot draw the line at a spurious "war against terror," you cannot draw the line at "the strong republic," you will never draw the line anywhere. All that talk about doing something for the country, if you did not do it others would and less altruistically, is not only arrogant, it is stupid. None of that means anything in the face of the monstrous transformation of the country all those wars have unleashed. A transformation that has brought back to us the season of coups.

The lesson is clear: If you build that, they will not come.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Widely off the mark

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TIME magazine made President Macapagal-Arroyo its cover story, for the third time, on its Aug. 4 issue. The article cited President Macapagal for "crisis management" after her government swiftly quelled last Sunday's mutiny.

Time cannot be more widely off the mark. Crediting her for crisis management is an assessment that is contradicted by evidence of how she responded to the rebellion. The mutiny was the first serious military challenge to her three-year presidency, the first serious test to her consuming project to build a "strong republic." And the crisis revealed the shaky foundations of the Philippine state.

The President's initial response exposed her ineptitude in crisis management. Apparently, the President panicked when confronted by an armed challenge.

Although the President had been warned by military intelligence of the coup plot and military movements foreshadowing the rebellion, prompting her to warn the nation last Friday that a coup was in the offing, she did not use her powers as commander in chief of the armed forces to preempt it. She did say in a press briefing that the armed forces were hunting a band of soldiers who had deserted their posts and "illegally brought weapons."

The hunt was futile, suggesting that the military was not zealous enough in carrying out her orders to arrest the deserters. By 2 a.m. on Sunday, the rebels had slipped into Makati and seized a hotel. My sources inside Malacañang Palace told me that the Makati attack stunned and "rattled" the President who appeared so paralyzed she was unable to respond quickly.

For 12 hours after the attack—between 2 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on Sunday—the President lived in a vacuum and was nowhere in sight. Because of the invisibility of the President in those critical hours, the government lost the propaganda initiative to the rebels.

The President allowed the rebels to occupy the communications space. All of Sunday morning, the public saw on TV the propaganda barrage of the rebel officers, expressing their grievances and hurling insolent demands calling for her resignation and that of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes. Even though the government had its own TV station, there was hardly a reply from the President. The rebels monopolized the public communications arena that morning when TV-radio should be the natural bully pulpit of the President. By her invisibility, the President abdicated that arena to the rebels.

What the public saw on TV was a group of brash military officers seated like a junta against the background of the emblem of Magdalo, a historical reference to the Katipunan faction of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, whose followers staged a coup on Katipunan leader Andres Bonifacio, who was executed after losing the power struggle in the Tejeros Convention. The implication of the Magdalo emblem is that the officers' mutiny was a treasonous bid to grab state power—not just a forceful expression of festering soldiers' grievances inside the military. It gave away their intentions.

What the public saw was not the emblem of the Republic's authority—the presidential seal which was replaced in the public consciousness by the Magdalo emblem, leaving the impression that there was a power vacuum, that presidential authority was in a state of paralysis, that the President had lost control of events.

In those critical hours the people needed reassurance that they still had a government and wanted to see a President able to reassert authority in the communications arena, which the government abandoned to the rebels. The presidential response that she was in control was not forthcoming until 12:30 p.m., when she appeared on TV to declare a state of rebellion.

As the President hid inside the vacuum, it was promptly filled by rebels articulating their preposterous demands and their grievances and by Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

Honasan seized the opportunity to expound on his National Recovery Program, a package of confusing and incoherent slogans on reforms, which was obviously not an output of a thinking man. The rebels demanded that the NRP be adopted by the government, although it had no substance and did not amount to a doctrine of serious reform. The NRP is nothing but a doctrine for extra-constitutional seizure of power, for which Honasan has devoted his military career since the failed coups of the 1980s.

It is unfortunate that the young rebels drew inspiration from Honasan's formulation of political nonsense and that he has apparently been their role model for military adventurism. Honasan's military record of coup-plotting is hardly inspiring and worthy of emulation by young officers burning with messianic zeal to reform society. Honasan is an incurable coup plotter and a repeated failure in coup-making. If the young officers ask themselves seriously whether they have a future in military adventurism in a democratic society by emulating the Honasan model of military intervention, they might consider looking for better models.

It is a reflection on the political discernment and maturity of the mutinous young officers that they are easily beguiled by political testaments for reforming society from military officers like Honasan, whose election to the Senate, a democratic institution, has not made him assimilate the culture of consensus and has not developed in him respect for democratic processes and institutions as the framework for political change. Exposure to the democratic milieu in the Senate has not apparently dissolved the coup mentality of Honasan.

Meet the 'Pink Pope'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HE is known as the "Pink Pope."

In preparation for the visit to Brazil some years back of Kursad Kahramanoglu, one of two co-secretaries general (the other is Ana Leah Sarabia, a Filipina) of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (Ilga), an organizer tried to hype public interest in the events by "anointing" Kursad with the provocative title. By the time Kursad landed in Brazil, the title had obviously had the desired effect. He was met by a mob of media people ("I felt like I was a superstar!" he exclaims), and he was thence and forevermore known as "The Pink Pope."

Confessing that he hadn't known before his arrival about being dubbed the "Pink Pope," Kursad reflects that had he known about it, he would have tried harder to live up to the title. "I would have kissed the ground or something!"

Kursad flew into the country to help oversee preparations for the 22nd Ilga World Conference scheduled to be held in Manila in November. "I came to see for myself if we are brave enough to hold the conference in the Philippines," Kursad quips. Seriously, he says he is still nursing some doubts about the safety aspect, especially since his first day in the country was marked by the mutiny in Makati. "I am seeking a meeting with the President," he says, mainly to get some assurance that the conference delegates, about 200 from all over the world and perhaps a similar number locally, will be safe and protected from harassment.

But if it pushes through, says Kursad, the Manila conference in November will have "a historical mission," and that mission is to "open Asia" to the concept of "LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans-gender) rights as human rights."

* * *

THE FIGHT for the rights of the LGBT community, says Kursad, is "the last human rights struggle." All over Asia, for instance, being part of the sexual minority makes one vulnerable to discrimination, persecution, imprisonment or even execution. "Of more than 60 cities in Asia," notes Kursad, "we in Ilga can hold meetings, without fear of harassment, in only five countries," one of which is the Philippines.

The conference, and the official and public reception of it, will be a "litmus test" of the country's commitment to human rights for all, says Kursad. "A country like the Philippines has a choice. It can either join with the rest of the civilized world or be counted among the barbarians," he adds.

Ever sharp and caustic and brutally honest, Kursad says that, though he had been in the country only three days at the time of our talk, he's had time to soak in the "general atmosphere." And the Philippines "feels like a conservative country," where the dominant Church plays an inordinate role in the "policing" of individual private behavior and the shaping of public attitudes, policies, laws and their enforcement.

* * *

KURSAD'S personal journey to leadership in the international LGBT movement is itself quite interesting and perhaps even emblematic of the evolution of the movement itself.

Born and raised in Turkey, Kursad earned an engineering degree from a local institution but counts his embrace of "leftist activism" as the highlight of his years in his home country. By the time he decided to leave for the United Kingdom in 1977, Kursad had not only "come out" as a gay man, but had also realized that he "no longer wanted to apologize for my existence."

He took further studies in philosophy at Manchester University but he soon realized that even England, he says with a twinkle in his eye, "wasn't the paradise I hoped it would be." He thus drifted into activism, leading the Northwest Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Manchester, which politicized thousands in that part of England. Twelve years ago, he was asked to join Unison, a public service union of LGBT civil servants that is today the biggest labor union in the United Kingdom, with a membership of 1.3 million. He serves as its international officer and was elected Ilga co-secretary general in 1999.

How do his kin and countryfolk back in Turkey, which has a secular government and relatively permissive social mores, but is still undoubtedly Muslim, react to his high profile in the international LGBT struggle? "They can't make up their minds," he says, smiling. "When I was elected to the Ilga post in 1999 in South Africa, all of Turkey was buzzing because I was even interviewed by CNN. When I visited Turkey later, I was followed all over by the Turkish media, but they didn't know how to present my story. Many just wanted to talk about my partner."

* * *

SO many people, says Kursad, "want to reduce our struggle to sex. But it is not about sex. It's about not being discriminated against only because of whom we love and have as a partner in life."

Another way of putting it is that "whom you go to bed with doesn't make you any better or worse (a person) than others."

"Be careful whom you discriminate against or persecute," warns Kursad. "You may be punishing your sister, daughter, parent, son, friend or colleague." This is what makes the LGBT movement "so strong," he declares, precisely because sexual preference is a private and personal value that cannot be easily detected or judged, despite the stereotypes of what constitutes gay "behavior" or "attributes."

The "Pink Pope" quotes Gandhi on the four stages of public and official attitudes toward minorities struggling for rights and respect: "First they try to ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they perceive you as a threat, and finally, there is acceptance." And Kursad is in the forefront of those pushing, pushing, pushing toward the promised day of acceptance, tolerance and respect.

Lost in bits and pieces

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

ROUSED from sleep at 3 a.m. by text and calls regarding a new coup attempt in Makati, I sat in front of the TV and got a ringside seat to history as it unfolded. However, an hour of watching, shifting channels more than usual, I started to wonder whether we were getting bits and pieces rather than the whole picture. The crew of various TV stations caught the efficient men in military uniforms calmly planting bombs in the Glorietta carpark. Naturally, the scene brought back memories of previous coup attempts during the term of Cory Aquino, but this turned out to be something else.

To the uninitiated, military uniforms look alike, and it was disappointing that none of the TV reporters were industrious enough to try and make distinctions between the name patches, insignia, etc. Without intelligent commentary, viewers for awhile were just as clueless as the reporters. Then they noticed the armbands and proceeded to describe what we could already see on video footage. I presume the redundance was for the radio audience who could only hear and not see what was going on.

So the bands were red, had a white sun on which was emblazoned the letter "I." It took awhile for somebody to guess that this was not a letter "H" either but the pre-colonial Philippine symbol for "*Ka.*"

Despite being standard textbook information, something simple you get asked in elimination rounds at TV game shows, it took awhile for TV reporters to connect the armbands to one of the flags of the Philippine Revolution of 1896. Maybe I expect too much but I would like to believe that Filipinos do not need a Ph.D. in history to know that this armband was based on the Katipunan flag, that the letter on the sun is from the pre-colonial Philippine syllabary or *baybayin*, not *alibata*, which is a 20th-century invented word and does not exist in early Philippine dictionaries.

During the 1998 Philippine Centennial, these flags dominated the landscape forming part of a set mistakenly described as "Evolution of the Philippine Flag." We can partly blame the Philippine Post for miseducating the public with a series of stamps showcasing the different flags of the revolution and calling it the evolution of our flag.

If this were so, we would find it hard to place Mariano Llanera's flag—the black field with a white "K" beside the terrifying skull and crossbones. The symbol on armbands worn by the "mutineers" was Andres Bonifacio's flag, yet nobody commented on the paradox in the name of the group. "Magdalo," as every schoolboy knows, was the Katipunan faction in Cavite associated with Emilio Aguinaldo. Why not be consistent and be called "Magdiwang" instead? During the 1897 Tejeros Convention when Bonifacio was asked to preside over the formation of a revolutionary government to replace the Katipunan, he pointed to this flag, explained its symbolism, particularly the pre-colonial character "*Ka,*" which is short for "*Kalayaan.*"

History is not as simple as it seems and scholars, like Reynaldo Ileto, have already pointed out that while *kalayaan* is sometimes used interchangeably with *independencia*, there is a world of difference in the way these words are translated; in the way these words affected different Filipinos of different socio-economic classes. From this simple iconographic symbol flowed numerous historical allusions that were not picked up by the media.

Worse, the message these young men were trying to communicate did not get across very clearly because media and the public were not listening. Viewers expected some action and were both relieved and disappointed that there was no bloodshed. Thus, the choppy footage and the breathless, sometimes excitable reportage were unnecessary. Rather than calm the public, the opposite was achieved. The difference between TV reporting and print is that talking is spontaneous while the very act of writing forces one to be more sober, to collect one's thoughts. But then isn't journalism supposed to be history in a hurry?

We had a national emergency unfolding and the government station PTV-4 was literally off the air, leaving coverage to the competing giants, Channels 2 and 7. These stations were on the scene at dawn and kept reporting till midday when they switched to commercial programs. Imagine that while idealistic young military men put their lives and careers on the line to focus our attention on corruption in the military, one channel had Inday Badiday pinching Piolo Pascual, while the other had young people gyrating as if nothing important was happening in Makati. Those blessed with cable watched something else.

The boring parade of politicians swearing their allegiance to the Macapagal government was made lively by Fidel V. Ramos, one of the few who made sense and injected humor in an otherwise drab day. Someone asked if GMA lost sleep. FVR replied, you don't ask a woman how much sleep she got. A reporter commented that GMA appeared fresh when she gave her statement in the morning. FVR replied, "all presidents should look fresh when they face media." A reporter asked, if you were president how would you handle this? FVR refused to answer the hypothetical question.

Live TV coverage was like seven blind men holding various parts of an elephant's anatomy, each describing what he touched but nobody getting the complete picture. Fortunately, historians of the future will give a better picture armed with hindsight and perspective.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

The failed 1989 coup in retrospect

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—In the wake of the latest caper in Makati, I dug up my dust-covered 1990 Final Report of the Fact-Finding Commission formed by then President Cory Aquino to investigate the failed 1989 coup.

A most useful reference, the 1990 Fact-Finding Report is not just a report in the usual sense. It is a 743-page volume of facts, documentation, analysis, interpretations, interviews and other materials related to the coup d'etat phenomenon, in general, and to the 1989 rebellion, in particular. To understand the dynamics of the 1989 putsch, the commission also studied all the previous coup attempts "since they are all inextricably linked."

The commission that prepared the report was composed of then Comelec Chair Hilario Davide Jr. as chair; and the members were: then UP Regent Delfin Lazaro, business executive Ricardo Romulo, CBCP member Msgr. Leonardo Legaspi, and UP Political Science professor Carolina Hernandez. Monsignor Legaspi later declined and in his place, President Aquino appointed Christian Monsod, who was then co-chair of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development.

I understand one of the original authors, Dr. Carolina Hernandez, has been named to the commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the likewise failed coup in July. This is a good development as Dr. Hernandez, who is a military-civilian relations expert, has the institutional memory to undertake this demanding task.

In summary form, the reasons for the 1989 coup cited by the participants were: (1) failure of government to deliver basic services; (2) graft and corruption; (3) too much politics, grandstanding of politicians and humiliation by politicians; (4) bureaucratic inefficiency exacerbating people's alienation and poverty; (5) poor military leadership characterized by a "*tayo-tayo*" system, factionalism and lack of support for the soldier in the field; (6) lack of genuine reconciliation; (7) uneven treatment of human rights violators; (8) absence of good government; (9) softness on the CPP-NPA elements; and (10) failure of civilian leadership to solve economic problems. These sound all too familiar, aren't they?

Interestingly, officers who fought on the government side repeated many of the participants' responses, but added the following: (1) obsession with the power they [coup plotters] thought they had won but handed over to Cory Aquino in February 1986; (2) a desire by coup leaders to regain privileges enjoyed during the Marcos era; (3) personal grievances and perceived "dead-end" in career path; (4) strong fraternal or personal ties from PMA days; (5) naive idealism on the part of young officers; and (6) a messianic complex.

Similar or the same responses and sentiments are already unraveling in the current investigation.

The commission divided its recommendations into three sections: (1) "damage-control" or short-term prescriptions; (2) agenda for the remaining term of the Aquino administration; and (3) long-term. The recommendations are voluminous, contained in three Interim Reports on the themes of military justice and the urgency of legislation to implement military-related provisions of the 1987 Constitution, among others.

But it would take another study just to see how many of these were followed by subsequent administrations, particularly by the Ramos administration. My guess is, probably very little, if at all. It's simply not done with one administration after another launching their own political agenda, starting all over again, forgetting or ignoring what needs to be done, and so on.

It must be in our political culture to conveniently dismiss the past, no matter how wrong, as something that no longer warrants attention. Justice is never served. This is what is most frustrating in our political dynamics. People who act with impunity literally get away with murder. Instead of being punished, they are lionized and go about with the usual swagger, even having the audacity to suggest how a nation they helped to destroy could recover. Isn't it amazing?

Part of the commission's short-term recommendations, for instance, was to launch a reinvestigation of the "God Save the Queen" plot early in the Aquino administration, and the prosecution of all those implicated in it. Was this ever done? It was conveniently forgotten. Who cares?

The commission also reviewed the Manila Hotel incident, which as everyone might recall, resulted in the comic "thirty push-ups."

Another recommendation was an "intensive follow-up investigation by government police agencies and the justice department of civilians implicated in the December 1989 attempt." Such civilian networks included the Mindanao Freedom movement, the Marcos "Hawaii Connection," and fundraisers from business. Does anyone remember any government initiatives to pursue these?

There was also a recommendation to establish a special full-time commission to implement a post-insurgency program that will modernize, professionalize and bring the military within the mainstream of national life. Fat chance, right? As far as I know, the military has been "modernizing" since the time of Magsaysay.

How about another "as-old-as-the-hills" recommendation on punishing corrupt military officers to the full extent of the law? Come now. Instead of being behind bars or in the brig, they are cavorting in stately mansions or have become wealthy businessmen or powerful politicians.

The remaining space will permit only a glimpse into some of the long-term recommendations, which covered topics like love of country, social justice, a citizen army, decentralization, the Constitution and democracy. Here the commission tended to give more abstract suggestions, ranging from revamping the entire educational system to enable it to transmit proper values to students, to implementing the key provisions of the Constitution on the diffusion of economic wealth and political power.

The report ends with a call for the "irreducible minimum to peaceful and orderly change," which is to forego the bullet for the ballot, "for the path of peace is the path of progress, social justice and nationhood." Noble words which have not become part of the reality of Philippine life.

Dr. Hernandez and her colleagues have an unenviable job to do, although we really don't need another 743-page blockbuster for this latest crisis. We've been there before. Perhaps a good way for her to start is, "Whatever happened to our Report in 1990?" She and and her colleagues, led by no less than current Chief Justice Davide, are entitled to a decent answer.

University of Hawaii professor Belinda A. Aquino, working at the University of the Philippines in 1990, was one of the academics requested by the Fact-Finding Commission to do an analysis of the political environment of the 1989 coup.

False messianic complex

LISTENING to Sen. Gringo Honasan's eloquent denial of his role in the latest military misadventure, one can almost believe that he was primarily responsible for the young officers' decision to stand down.

Unfortunately, most of his claims proved to be either half-truths or outright delusions.

"Palace asked for my help." This claim of Honasan that he received a call from Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Secretary Mike Defensor and Philippine Information Agency chief Rene Velasco has been denied by Velasco himself who remembered getting a call from Honasan offering to help in the negotiation, apparently after getting information that he was implicated.

"As the so-called mastermind, it's inconceivable for me to tell the troops to stop operation." With no public support nor additional military backing, and with the apparent unwillingness of the mutinous soldiers to die for what they were fighting for, there really was no option for him but to "stop operation." If you can't be a hero of the rebellion, position yourself as the peacemaker.

"This is an independent action. There was no mastermind." This disclaimer reminds me of what Honasan and the other "honorable" opposition leaders did to the mob at the Edsa Shrine. Inflame their passion. Ride on their sentiments. Then disclaim responsibility for their response.

"The accusations hurled against me involved the dignity and independence of the Senate." This statement is the height of arrogance.

"If they harass or threaten me, I will have this (speech) delivered all over the country." This reminds one of the rantings of the ex-honorable Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

While he can be a source of occasional amusement, Honasan is dangerous and should be unmasked for who he really is: a false messiah. Otherwise, he'll continue destroying the lives of people like Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes IV.

—ED DAMES,
BSA Mansion, Benavidez Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

Righteous judgment in Marcos case

I SUPPORT the move in Congress to allocate a certain percent of the recovered ill-gotten wealth for the compensation of the human rights victims of martial law. It will not only be poetic justice but also material and substantial justice of the retributive kind.

We salute the Supreme Court for that 12-0 landmark decision on the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, which from this distance, even without reading the full text, is doctrinal, particularly on the issues of law regarding summary judgment and certiorari, instead of the usual remedy of appeal. The Supreme Court in its wisdom and sense of sublime justice, preferred or chose the exception rather than the general rule, demonstrating resolute and righteous judicial will.

—JUDGE EDMUNDO
H. ESCALANTE (Ret.),
president, Integrated Bar
of the Philippines, Sorsogon Chapter

On the Makati crisis, Part 1

IN YOUR editorial titled "Mutineers" (July 28, 2003) you said the mutineers must face the "maximum penalty under the law." The maximum penalty under the law for what they did is death. In short you were saying: Kill the mutineers.

What happened to the INQUIRER? Your paper used to be independent-minded, progressive, critical. Now, from that editorial, the more appropriate words to describe you would seem to be reactionary, hysterical, and pedestrian.—**Raymond Lee**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

On your editorial, "Doomed" (July 29, 2003), I find it disturbing that soldiers, to whom we entrusted our liberty, had turned against the people they swore to protect.

The issues raised by the mutineers may be true. The government should look into the possibility that some officers are traitors, not just inefficient and corrupt.

All the mutineers should be dealt the maximum penalty under the law, for we never intended to pay our taxes for their salaries and their education at the military academy, only to see them turn against the duly constituted authority.—**Jojo Rodil**

* * *

I disagree with what the 296 or so soldiers did by taking over a privately owned apartment building in Makati.

They have no right to do that. Military personnel are not supposed to go against higher authorities, no matter what. If they wanted to protest or air their grievances, they should resign first and join militant groups. Our national security was compromised by their actions.

It is for the people to decide—through elections, or through the more convenient Edsa People Power—if we still want our present government.—**Ronald dela Peña**

* * *

Opportunists will use the Makati mutiny to call for the heads of some government officials. But the accusations against these officials are idiotic and false and not even worth a discussion.

Most Filipinos understand that there are some leaders of the police and military, possibly in cohort with a political leader or two, who are fattening their bank accounts at the expense of the good people of the Philippines. These individuals must face the rule of law—and justice must indeed be applied evenly to all Filipinos, regardless of rank or financial status.

Is staging a coup d'etat the way to "clean" the government? No. The way to remove corruption is to strengthen—not weaken through rebellions—our democratic institutions. —**Daniel Stafford**

* * *

When I heard the rebel soldiers announce that they had bolted from the Armed Forces and ask the President to step down due to certain allegations, I was hoping they would present some evidence in support of their accusations.

To my great disappointment, they did not do so. Instead, they grew visibly more and more impatient with media reporters who continued to question them about their reasons for staging a coup (which they denied was what they were doing). They seemed to expect the public to readily embrace their so-called cause and support their coup attempt.

As an ordinary citizen of this country, I could not help but feel threatened by these rebel soldiers with high-powered arms, planting bombs all around a hotel in Makati. While I had some reservations about the aborted impeachment trial and the subsequent ouster of former President Joseph Estrada through extra-constitutional means, I had no doubts about the illegality and immorality of the mutinous soldiers' attempt to wrest power from a government that is, by all indications, a legitimate one, albeit tainted with corruption and wrong policies. I felt that the threat was aimed not just at the government, but at the people at large, who stand to lose their freedom once a military junta takes over.—**Jun Virola**

* * *

I salute the soldiers who participated in the last coup. They have the courage to aim for change. Almost all the people holding the best positions in the government are not performing their duties to the best interest of our country.

I hope a more consolidated effort would be made in the earliest possible time... I hope the change would create a corruption-free government.—**Marlo Fragata**

* * *

I think the Sunday "mutineers" have valid grievances and were forced to come out in the open for lack of credible remedies. I am surprised that minimal public attention is being given to their grievances. The fact that the allegations of collusion between the military and rebel forces were made by men in the field give the allegations some merit. Surely the mutineers would not have placed their careers, their reputation, their much-loved military institution, their lives on the line if they were just being ridiculously false, as Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

As the Philippine state deals with the "messengers," we must look more closely at and, indeed, act on "the message."—**Niza Concepcion**

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Bush takes blame for Iraq intel flap

WASHINGTON—After weeks of blaming others, President George W. Bush for the first time accepted responsibility on Wednesday for making a now-discredited charge that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa.

"I take personal responsibility for everything I say," Bush said when asked about the disputed claim during a wide-ranging White House Rose Garden news conference.

Bush also denied exaggerating the Iraqi threat in the run-up to the war as some Democrats have charged and said his decision to go to war was based on "good, sound intelligence" that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction.

"I'm confident history will prove the decision we made to be the right decision," he said.

It was Bush's first formal solo news conference since March, the eighth of his presidency, and came shortly before he departs on Saturday for what amounts to a month-long vacation at his Texas ranch interspersed with various official and fund-raising events.

A main focus of the news conference was the chaotic situation in Iraq, where US troops are dying daily three months after major combat operations were declared over, where the hunt for weapons of mass destruction is so far fruitless, and where Saddam Hussein remains at large.

The claim that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa for a nuclear weapons program was made by Bush in his State of the Union address last January as evidence that Iraq represented a threat to the United States.

In recent weeks the claim has been discredited as being based partly on forged documents, and in the uproar that followed, Bush and his top aides blamed CIA Director George Tenet for failing to head off the 16-word line in the speech.

Deputy national security adviser Stephen Hadley accepted a White House share of the blame but Bush had declined to take personal responsibility.

His acknowledgment represented an attempt to put the issue to rest as Democrats claim Bush has a "credibility gap."

BUSH

He defended national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who has drawn fire for letting the claim into the speech.

"Dr. Condoleezza Rice is an honest, fabulous person and America is lucky to have her service, period," he said, as Rice watched with other top aides nearby under the shade of a tree.

On the hunt for Saddam himself, Bush said US forces were "closer than we were yesterday, I guess." *Reuters*

Ambush kills 1 US soldier, hurts 2 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—One US soldier was killed and two wounded in a gun attack on their tactical operations center northeast of Baghdad, the US army said on Thursday.

A military spokesperson said the soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division were attacked around 11:45 p.m. on Wednesday. The death brings to 51 the number of US soldiers killed in attacks since Washington declared major combat over on May 1. In the last two weeks alone, 18 have been killed.

The spokesperson said the incident happened around 40 km east of Baquba, a restive town in the "Sunni triangle" area where many of the attacks on US troops have been concentrated. On Saturday three soldiers were killed in a grenade attack at a hospital in Baquba.

Washington blames die-hard Saddam Hussein loyalists for the spate of attacks.

On Tuesday, an Arab television network broadcast an audio tape which the CIA says was probably recorded by Saddam. The taped message mourned the death of his sons Uday and Qusay and vowed to fight a holy war to drive US forces out of Iraq. *Reuters*

Probe says NY Times lacked communication

NEW YORK—New York Times editors failed to communicate with each other and balked at firing bad reporters, but they did know how to speak rudely to staff, according to a report on newsroom practices released on Wednesday in the wake of a plagiarism scandal.

The New York Times said it would rectify the findings by creating a new set of editorial jobs, including appointing an ombudsman, and enforcing more transparent practices in its newsroom and on its pages.

The newspaper said it would adopt most of the measures in the early fall. Former reporter Jayson Blair was revealed in May to have fabricated dozens of stories, and earlier in July, the paper appointed Bill Keller as executive editor after its two top editors resigned over the affair.

The report included an analysis by three outside journalists who concluded that "the Jayson Blair debacle represents a failure of communication, command and discipline."

The report chronicled Blair's rise to prominence in the newspaper, despite a history of disciplinary actions, corrections and warnings, attributing it to a so-called "star system" that promoted favorites.

"One manager told the committee: 'This is a compassionate organization... We don't know how to fire people,'" it said.

In one stand-out example, the chronicle refers to Blair's plagiarism of other reporters' work and the ways in which he deceived editors while assigned to home-front stories on the Iraq war in various locations across the United States.

"He apparently worked via cell phone and e-mail to lead his editors to believe he was on the scene (of the stories) when he was apparently either on another floor of the Times Building or at home in Brooklyn," the report said.

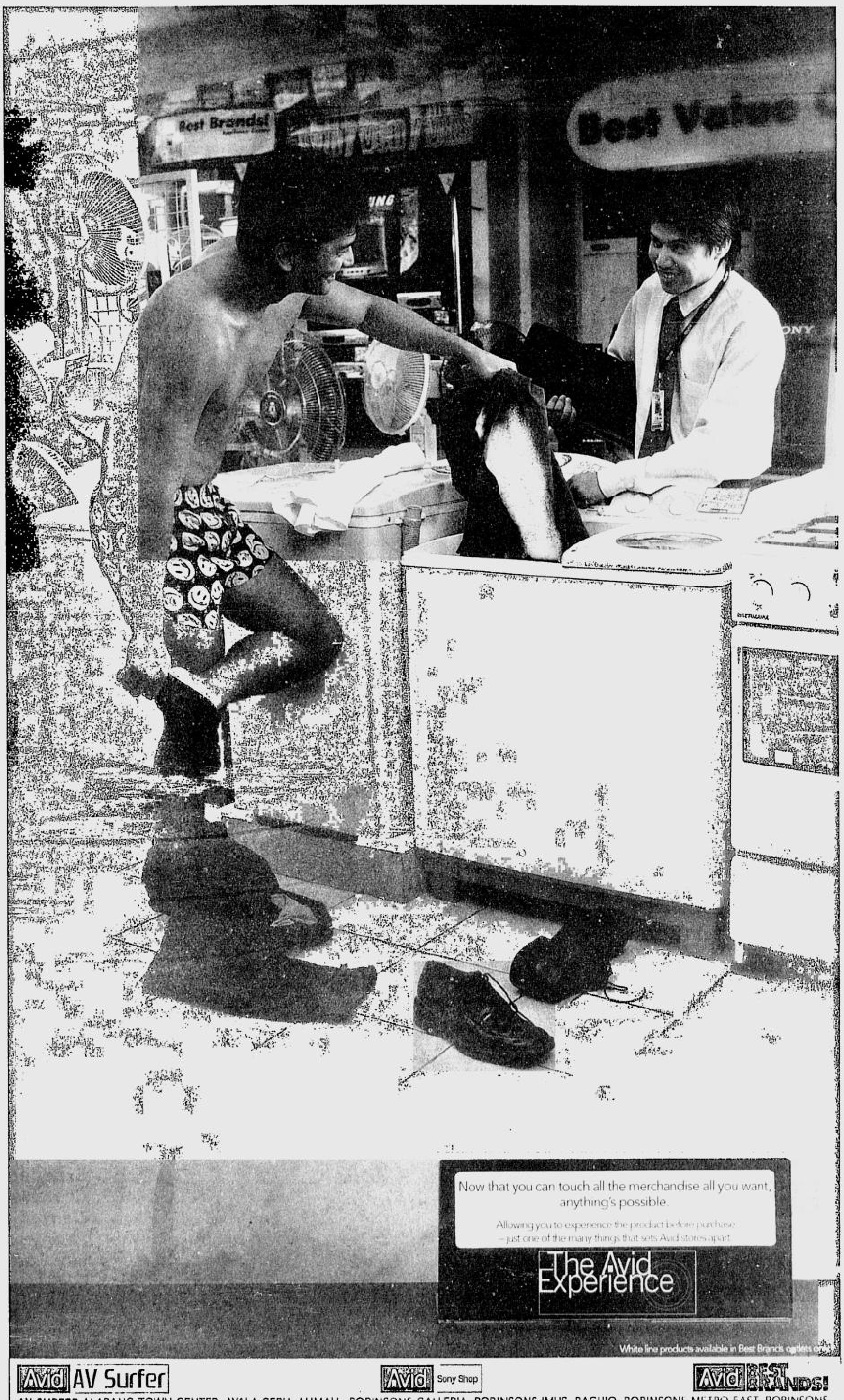
Some Times editors felt Blair's shortcomings were overlooked in part because he was black. The report concluded that editors' keenness to promote minorities was one factor in the Blair debacle but that fact should not stop the newspaper from promoting diversity.

The report also makes reference to the Times' reputation for fostering a harsh work environment.

"We must treat people more respectfully" through the span of their careers at the Times, the report recommended.

"Rudeness, demeaning language or humiliation should be deemed unacceptable," it said, noting that "civil discourse" was key to preventing future mistakes by allowing staff to share their misgivings about policy decisions.

Keller said in a memorandum attached to the report that the newspaper would hire a "public editor," or ombudsman, to review reader complaints and bring them before the appropriate editors, as well as writing critiques of Times coverage to be published in the newspaper itself. *Reuters*



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China aiming missiles at Taiwan, possibly US targets, says Pentagon

WASHINGTON—China is acquiring short-range missiles at a much faster rate than US officials previously thought and is aiming the weapons at Taiwan—and possibly at US targets, in case the Bush administration decides to intervene on the island's behalf, according to a Pentagon report.

"Preparing for a potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait is the primary driver for China's military modernization," said the report on Beijing's military assessment. The report, submitted annually to Congress, was released publicly Wednesday.

China has about 450 short-range ballistic missiles but is expected to increase its inventory by more than 75 missiles each year. The sophistication and accuracy of the missiles have improved, with the Beijing army developing variants of the CSS-6 missile that have greater ranges capable of reaching as far as Okinawa, Japan, home to more than 33,000 US troops.

The Chinese foreign ministry in Beijing had no immediate comment on the report.

A senior US defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said China may be using Okinawa "to checkmate or deter or threaten US involvement."

The Pentagon estimated in last year's assessment that China's military had acquired 350 ballistic missiles and was adding them at a rate of 50 a year.

The report also indicates that China is spending far more on its defense budget than it has acknowledged.

US officials estimate that the $20 billion military budget Beijing announced early last year actually falls in the range between $45 billion and $65 billion, and the report noted a potential for annual spending to increase three or four times by 2020.

The modernization of China's military, which has been under way for several years, appears to contradict Beijing's stated desire for a peaceful resolution over the reunification dispute related to Taiwan.

Taiwan split from the mainland in 1949 after the Nationalist Chinese leaders fled there following the communist victory in China. Beijing considers Taiwan a renegade province and has threatened to retake the island by force if necessary. US policy is to help Taiwan maintain a defense capability, but Washington does not favor Taiwanese independence.

Another problem highlighted in the Pentagon report is China's acquisition of Russian-made submarines that could be used to cut off Taiwan's sea lanes and threaten American forces that could respond.

For the fourth year in a row, China contracted $2 billion worth of weapons from Russia, at least double their annual procurement from Moscow over the past decade, according to the report. *AP*

American icon Bob Hope buried in dawn ceremony

LOS ANGELES—Family and friends of US comic legend Bob Hope bade him a final farewell Wednesday at an intimate dawn burial that came less than three days after his death at the age of 100.

As he was buried, flags flew at half staff on official buildings across the United States in honor of the comedian known for his half-century devotion to entertaining millions of US troops on battlefields across the world.

"At the conclusion of the ceremony, there was a standing ovation and applause filled the cemetery grounds," Hope's longtime friend and publicist Ward Grant said the burial at Los Angeles' San Fernando Mission cemetery.

"Bob Hope had taken his final bow and left the stage. He (is) taking a new road but is presence remains," Grant said.

The burial, which was temporary until a grotto is created nearby as Hope's final resting place, followed a funeral at the showman's local parish, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church near his home in the plush Toluca Lake area.

"It was a very warm and dignified service," said one of the guests who requested anonymity, adding that around 100 relatives, close friends and Hope employees attended the Mass that began at around 6:30 a.m.

Details of the American icon's funeral had been kept strictly secret by his family who requested that they be allowed to say farewell to their patriarch in private. *AFP*

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Star Mall
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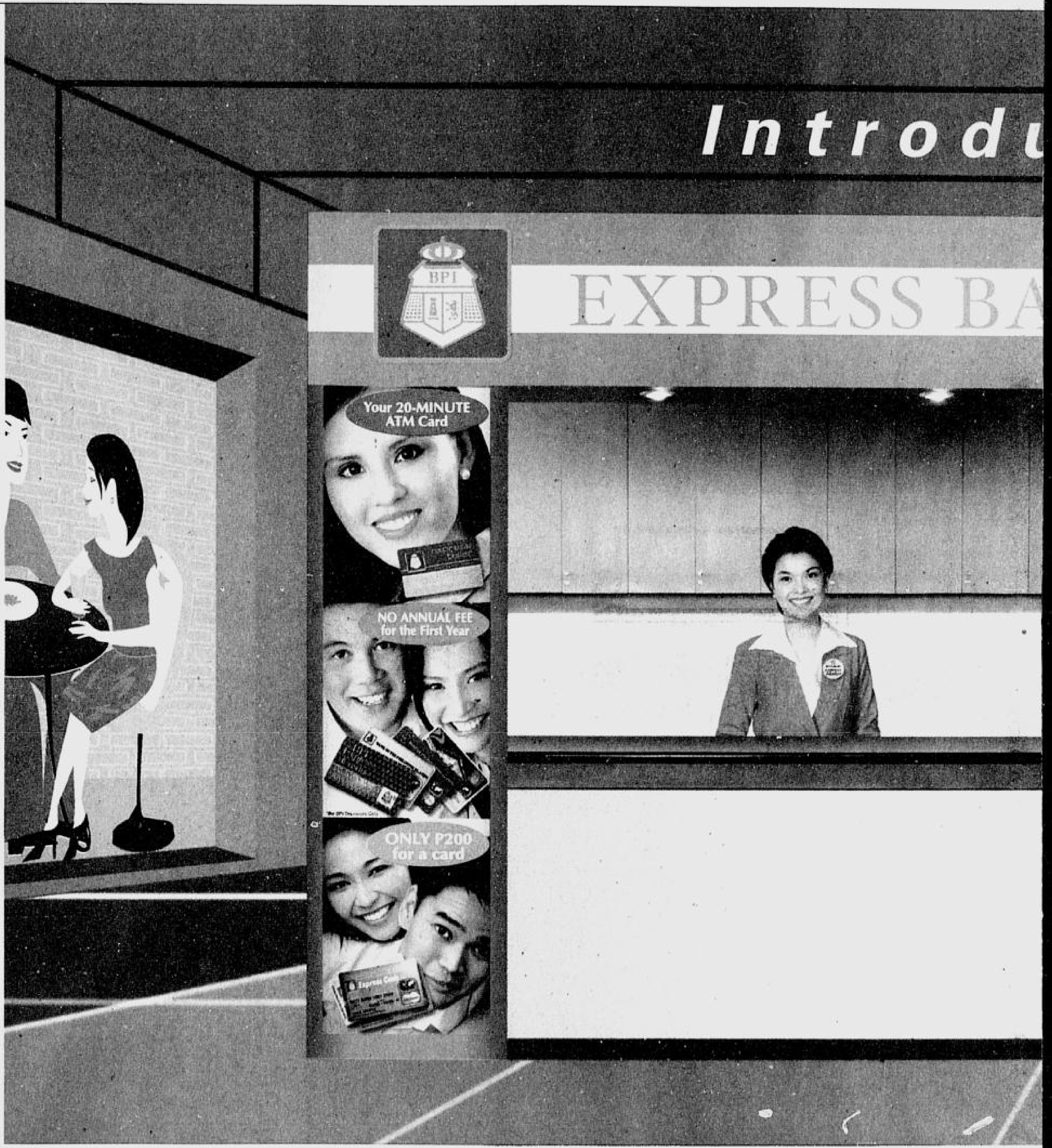
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Israel presses ahead with barrier despite outcry

JERUSALEM/WASHINGTON—Israel pushed ahead on Wednesday with construction of a security barrier in the West Bank despite Palestinian dismay and US Secretary of State Colin Powell's pledge to keep pressing on the issue.

US President George W. Bush failed in talks on Tuesday to persuade Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to stop building what Israel says is a security fence and Palestinians call a new "Berlin Wall."

Israel says the barrier is to keep out suicide bombers.

Palestinians say it grabs land they want to be part of their state. The United States says it is a problem because it could make life harder for Palestinians and prejudge future borders.

The issue overshadowed a fresh meeting between Palestinian security chief . Mohammed Dahlan and Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz to discuss Israeli troop pullbacks from more West Bank cities. Israel's Army Radio said the two met in Jerusalem.

Palestinians picked on Bush's failure to change Sharon's mind as evidence of US connivance with Israel and unwillingness to challenge Sharon's policies they say undermine a US-backed "road map" to peace.

Militant groups, observing an already shaky month-old truce, accused Israel and the United States of trying to provoke a civil war between Palestinians and threatened to reconsider their promise to suspend their attacks on Israelis.

But comments on Wednesday by Powell and Bush appeared aimed at assuaging the disappointment of mainstream Palestinian leaders.

Powell said in an interview: "We are going to press on this issue. There are other phases of construction coming along and... this is an area that will have to be discussed as we move forward."

"If the fence is constructed in a way which continues to intrude on Palestinian land, even if it's compensated for, in a way that makes it harder to go forward with the additional elements of the road map... that is a problem," he added. *Reuters*

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2 Belgian women drown in Benguet river

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Police and village officials are looking for two female Belgian students who have been reported missing since Wednesday when they went swimming in the Agno River in Itogon, Benguet.

The students' two companions—a Belgian boy and a girl—were rescued before the two girls were swept by the strong current, according to Luisa Besitan, 42, who was housing the foreigners for three days.

Immigration officer Antonio Prieto confirmed that the Itogon police had sought assistance from police and Navy frogmen to search for the foreigners identified as Kelly Smets, 19, a law student, and India Carreras, 22, a staff member of the Young Christian Workers in Limburg, Belgium.

Windel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said they are hosting seven Belgian students who are members of the YCW-Belgium.

The Belgians arrived in the country on July 20 for a two-week solidarity trip among farmers and indigenous communities.

The trip involved a visit to the Cordillera, particularly Metro Baguio, from July 29 to Aug. 2.

Besitan said seven Belgians, who are 18 to 25 years old, arrived in her house in Barangay Dalupirip at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. They were accompanied by two members of YCW-Philippines and a staff member of CPA.

CPA officials said after a short rest and briefing about their activities in Dalupirip, the Belgians and their companions decided to take a bath at the hot spring in Sitio Asin, about 15 minutes by foot from Besitan's house.

Unknown to Besitan, however, four Belgians went down to the Agno River. "I've repeatedly told them not to go down the river because there were a number of people who drowned there. I asked them to stay away from the river because of the strong current," she said.

When she called on them to get out of the water, Besitan said the two girls were gone. After they failed to find them, Besitan pleaded to other villagers to help look for her missing guests.

The Dalupirip community had been sleepless since Wednesday night as they joined their village chief Ramon Cariño and police officials in looking for the Belgian girls.

They went as far as Sitio Balucoc, an hour from Sitio Asin, according to the statement sent by CPA to the INQUIRER.

CPA officials said they asked assistance from Dinteg, Cordillera Indigenous People's Law Center, which then appealed to Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas who coordinated with the disaster coordinating committee of Pangasinan and Benguet.

WATER FUN

REUTERS

While most would react with dismay at the sight of flood, two boys in Zamboanga City, disregarding health advisories against swimming in floodwaters, treat flooding near their homes as nature's playground.

Church, NGOs form link to stop mining, logging in entire Eastern Samar

By Cyrain Cabueñas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—"No to mining, yes to Samar Island Natural Park!"

This was the resounding stand of the people of Eastern Samar as echoed by their leaders and representatives of the local and provincial governments, the Church and non-governmental organizations during a symposium held at the Bishop's House on Tuesday.

Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso initiated the dialogue in coordination with the Samar Island Biodiversity Projects (SIBP). Among the participants was Mines and Geosciences Bureau regional director Loreto Alburo.

During the dialogue, about 70 persons belonging to different sectors agreed to formulate three separate resolutions, which will be forwarded to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The resolutions would be drafted by a core group headed by Msgr. Lope Robredillo, Vicar general of the Diocese, in time for the anti-mining protest caravan scheduled on Aug. 8.

Parishioners and local officials would converge at Catbalogan town, Samar to express their opposition against mining and to call for the declaration of the Samar Island Natural Park as a protected area.

They will come from three staging points—Calbayog City, Samar; Catarman town, Northern Samar; and Borongan town, Eastern Samar.

Resolutions

The first resolution would be the collective support for Samar Island National Park (SINP), which covers around 333,300 hectares of forests straddling the three Samar provinces, 37 municipalities and one city in the country's third largest island.

They also asked President Macapagal to sign an executive order, declaring the SINP a protected area.

Another resolution would be drafted, asking Congress to repeal Presidential Proclamation No. 1615 of 1977 that declared 296,683 hectares in Samar as a mineral reservation, allowing mining operations in these areas.

In the third resolution, the group would ask that the entire Samar Island be declared mining and logging free.

In his welcome remarks, Bishop Medroso expressed the need for a collective effort to protect the environment and come up with a better development alternative to free Samarenos from the clutches of poverty.

Rosario Cabardo, SIBP protected area planning specialist, said commercial logging and large-scale mining had been around for more than three decades but it did not provide any significant economic gains to most Samarenos as more than 45 percent still lived below the poverty level.

She also cited the inconsistencies of policy makers who entertained mining applications and explorations even in protected areas.

Support

Eastern Samar provincial administration officer Floro Balato Jr., assured that Gov. Clotilde Salazar and Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan were in favor of the SINP.

He said Libanan was even one of the signatories of the proposed House Bill 4764, seeking the SINP's establishment.

3 slain, 2 wounded in Camarines killings

LEGAZPI CITY—Three persons were killed while two others were seriously injured in a massacre at about 2 a.m. Wednesday in the remote Barangay of Cabanbanan, Balatan, Camarines Sur.

Reports reaching the Bicol Police Regional Office based in Camp General Simeon Ola here said the killings took place inside the residence of barangay captain Ernesto Ani.

Victims Amador San Fuego, 40, and Felix 'Dondon' Pardines, 28, died instantaneously due to multiple gunshot wounds in different parts of the body while Bernie Ani, 15, and son of the village chief, was brought to Mediatrix Hospital in Iriga City but was pronounced dead on arrival.

Ani and his 17-year-old daughter Beverly suffered gunshot wounds.

Ani is now recovering while daughter Beverly was still fighting for her life in the hospital as of press time. Police authorities were still looking into the identities of the suspects.

Information obtained by the INQUIRER said at least 15 heavily armed men clad in fatigues came to the house of the victims who were then asleep.

The group called Ani and asked him to come out of the house or else they would burn it.

Pardines and San Fuego, who were guarding a pig at that time, came out and attempted to entertain the group.

But soon after the two came out, the suspects opened fire.

Upon hearing successive gunshots, Bernie stood up to take a look but a bullet hit him in the head. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Another student falls victim to school hazing

IBA, Zambales—A plebe of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) in San Antonio town was seriously hurt after he was reportedly hazed by some senior cadets last week.

SPO2 Bernabe Malcaba, the case's investigator, identified the victim as Julio Moreno III, 17, of Daet, Camarines Norte.

Moreno was taken to the President Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital (PRMMH) here on July 23 and was operated on immediately after he was diagnosed to be suffering from serious internal bleeding and blood clots.

A nurse who attended to Moreno said at least three liters of blood were drained from the victim's body during the operation.

"He's lucky because he would have died had doctors not operated on him immediately," the nurse said.

Capt. Fidel Dinoso, newly installed PMMA president, ordered an investigation of the hazing.

Moreno was the sixth victim of hazing in the PMMA since it was transferred to Zambales in 1995.

Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

4 die trying to save woman in septic tank

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Four men died on Monday night when they tried to rescue a neighbor who fell into a septic tank in Barangay Guadalupe this city.

The police said Glenn Pirame, Franklin Mahayahay and cousins Christopher and Jerome Gabihan died of suffocation and poisoning after they were trapped inside the septic tank at Sitio Lower Sambag 2, Guadalupe.

Wilma Badayos remained in critical condition at the Chong Hua Hospital in Cebu City, said SPO2 Cesar Bondoc of Guadalupe Police Station.

Bondoc said Badayos was inside her toilet when the floor gave way, plunging her into the two-meter deep septic tank.

Pirame, Mahayahay and the Gabihan cousins heard her scream for help. Christopher threw a rope into the tank so she could be pulled out. But Badayos failed to catch the rope. It was then Christopher went inside the tank to rescue her.

But Christopher did not surface. The three others then decided to go after Christopher. But they too did not come up.

Their other neighbors, who saw what happened, called up the police.

Bondoc said the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (ERUF) personnel rescued the four men and Badayos. The four died upon reaching the hospital.

Lina gives self 3 months for results in campaign against illegal drug trade

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. has vowed to show results in the renewed war against illegal drugs in three months.

Lina, chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, made the promise during the launching of the anti-drug campaign in Central Visayas recently.

He said in his speech that the government would show to the public the results of his anti-drug operations within three months.

Lina, however, urged the public to help the police in the campaign by providing information on persons involved in illegal drugs in their community and the existence of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) laboratories.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Cebu earlier said surveillance operations were being conducted on three suspected shabu laboratories.

Lina and Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay led the launching of the Regional Anti-illegal Drug Special Task Force, headed by Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin, Police Regional Office director in Central Visayas.

The launching was held at the Mandaue City Sports Complex and attended by at least 200 police and government officials in Central Visayas.

Delfin said the task force will be composed of six non-commissioned officers and a police official who are yet to be named.

Aglipay, who is also the deputy director general for operation, served as the overall commander of the task force.

Aglipay said he would not hesitate to dismiss policemen from the service if they failed to act on information from concerned citizens about suspected drug peddlers.

During the launching, Senior Supt. Julio Augusto, PRO deputy director in Central Visayas, said that in the first half of this year, they were able to confiscate about a kilo and half of shabu worth P3 million.

He said that 9.9 percent of the 3,003 barangays in Central Visayas were considered as seriously affected by the problem of illegal drugs.

Lobregats hit planned expansion of ARMM

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat and her son Rep. Celso Lobregat have expressed their strong opposition to the possible conduct of a plebiscite in Mindanao to expand the territory of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

The conduct of the plebiscite is one of the provisions included in the final peace agreement (FPA) that is being offered by the government to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Under Section 1, Chapter 7 of the proposed agreement, it read: "The government shall initiate the passage of legislative measures to expand the structure and authority of the ARMM."

"I was so discouraged after I left Malacañang," Mayor Lobregat said after a consultative meeting with the President and some Cabinet officials on the proposed agreement held in Malacañang on July 23.

Representative Lobregat, a participant in the meeting, sent a letter to Presidential Adviser Eduardo Ermita containing all the provisions he considered as questionable in the proposed agreement, particularly on the possible conduct of the plebiscite.

In his letter, Lobregat described the proposal as "too premature" since a plebiscite had already been conducted on Aug. 14, 2001.

Representative Lobregat said the provision will bring about agitation, divisiveness, uncertainty and instability in the non-ARMM areas.

"It would also spark false hopes on the part of the MILF, since most of the areas have voted against their inclusion in the ARMM," he added.

Representative Lobregat also questioned the definition of the term "conflict affected area" since he said that this could also be used in areas which do not face peace and order problems brought about by the ongoing conflict with the MILF.

"This very broad and loose definition is the cause of anxiety and alarm especially in non-ARMM provinces and cities more specifically when taken in conjunction with the proposed MILF designated agency, Bangsamoro Development Authority (BDA)," he said.

He also expressed concern that the BDA, an agency expected to implement developmental programs for the MILF could function as the defunct SPCPD.

The mayor expressed her disapproval on a provision that would allow the MILF to sell firearms to the government.

She said she tried to talk to the President about her concerns on the provisions of the treaty but Ms Macapagal stood firm on the contents of the treaty.

"To tell you frankly, I was not very happy. There are many things that they have to look into," she said. *Rolly San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MAGUINDANAO LIST-UP

Cheating rears ugly head in registration

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 17 high school students of the Southern de Oro Philippines College (SPC) here were lured to register in Lanao del Sur in exchange for P500.

The voters' registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) started Saturday and will end on Thursday.

The students arrived here on Sunday from Lanao del Sur after registering there using different names.

One of the students said there were also other high school students from outside Lanao del Sur registered.

The students were given free meals and transportation.

On Saturday, parents of the students claimed their children went missing, and sought the help of the police and the military in locating them.

Eli Maneja, dean of discipline at SPC, told the INQUIRER that a certain Nasridin Mustafa assured the students of cash and free meals and transportation during the travel on Friday.

"We heard about this after some students who did not join the group told the bandmaster that those absent went to Lanao del Sur to register," Maneja said.

Maneja said that the students were told they would be back to this city on that same day.

In Maguindanao, the Commission on Elections warned qualified voters against getting into trouble by multiple registration.

The Comelec was scheduled to wind up the six-day general registration of voters in Maguindanao Wednesday.

"Please refrain from applying for registration from one place to another because you will be detected and may face appropriate charges," commissioner in charge Luz Tancangco said.

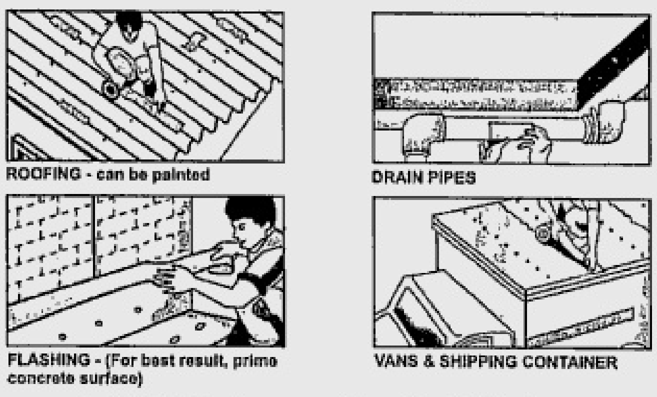
"The data gathering machines would deny them because of finger prints and photos of applicants," she said.

Tancangco also explained that the registration in Maguindanao and other parts of ARMM is just the initial stage of the whole process.

"We are into data gathering yet, we have the other process, the most important one, in Comelec Manila where we could determine who are multiple registrants," she added.

Omar Macabangen, information officer of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan, admitted that there was "hakot" (mass transport) of qualified applicants "to give them the opportunity to register in their areas of residence."

Most of those "transported" were families displaced by floods and man-made calamities in the province and have evacuated to Cotabato City. *Grace Cantal-Albasin and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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DEALERS WELCOME!

Ex-NPAs fail to stop illegal cutting of trees

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

SIBULAN, Negros Oriental—Illegal cutting of trees in the watershed area here has continued even if members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) are now the forest guards.

Sibulan Mayor Antonio Renacia said legal and psychological problems are affecting the effectiveness of the eight RPA-ABB members who comprised the group called "Bantay Lasang," hired by the municipality in October 2001.

He said the group does not have the legal personality to arrest any violator of forestry laws.

If they caught somebody cutting down some trees, Renacia said the Bantay Lasang members would report this either to the police, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources or the Philippine National Oil Co.

Renacia said the group was also hesitant to force the issue out of fear that they might be alienated from the "masa" especially since the New People's Army had accused them of working for the government.

The mayor said the group has recommended that livelihood projects be implemented in the mountains to give hinterland villagers an alternative and legal source of living.

Renacia said he will endorse the recommendation to the provincial government because the municipality does not have the resources to implement the group's recommendation.

Still, he said he was not bent on terminating the services of the group because the main reason in hiring them—to maintain peace and order in the mountains—had been achieved.

In the meantime, he said the DENR and PNOC should deal with the problem.

Arnold Nalam, PNOC head of the environmental division, said their security officer advised the PNOC forest guards to stay away from the mountain due to the presence of New People's Army rebels.

Gunmen kill village exec in Cavite town

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A barangay councilor was gunned down by three suspected members of the New People's Army whom he served hot coffee and allowed to spend the night in his house in Barangay Kaytitinga Uno in Alfonso, Cavite on Wednesday night.

Two local volunteer watchmen suffered gunshot wounds.

Cavite police director Roberto Rosales identified the victim as *kagawad* Bonifacio Banauhan, 37, resident of the remote barangay.

Wounded were Efren Cosino and Efren Bendo.

Investigators said around 8:30 p.m., three armed men came to Banauhan's house and asked for help.

The victim's house was on a hillside, near the boundary of Cavite and Batangas provinces.

Police said the unidentified men introduced themselves as NPA rebels.

The suspects, armed with high-powered firearms and hand pistols, requested the victim if he could serve them hot coffee and food as they were hungry and tired after walking from a great distance.

The supposed NPA guerrillas also asked Banauhan if they could spend the night in his nipa house.

Afraid that something bad would happen to him if he refused, the victim obliged to the suspects' request.

While the alleged rebels were enjoying their coffee, Banauhan quickly sought the help of barangay *tanods* in their area.

Police said as the victims approached the nipa hut to try to talk with the suspects, the supposed NPAs suddenly fired at them.

Cosino and Bendo, who were able to hide in a ravine, said Banauhan tried to run but the suspects continued firing.

The suspects fled to a mountainous area, leaving a 9 mm pistol and two backpacks containing clothes and a small notebook with names of local officials and police officers listed on it. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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YUTA SA MAG-UUMA DILI ANG
PAGTERORISTA NI GLORIA

LANDLESS RYAN LIM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
A member of a farmers' group demanding land for tillers puts his message across a mock bolo during a rally for land reform in Davao City.

Gloria furious at malpractice in flood control

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MEXICO, Pampanga—It took President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is not an engineer, to point out a malpractice in flood-control projects in her home province Pampanga.

In Barangay San Lorenzo here where she inspected on Thursday the dredging activities of the Department of Public Works and Highways along the Bungang Guinto River, the President observed the futility of dumping the dredged spoils on the riverbanks.

Visibly irked, she told officials of the DPWH: "The dredging material must not be deposited just on the riverbank, it will go down again (during rains). It should be brought out."

Thrown and piled on the riverbanks, the spoils appeared like soil dikes.

Rains, as she has observed, had washed the spoils back to the river.

DPWH Central Luzon officials, led by regional director Josefino Rigor, simply uttered several times: "Yes ma'am."

She told reporters she came to the village to check a report she received about the way the DPWH disposes of lahar scooped out from various rivers. Lahar are sand and ash spewed by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991, washed by strong rains and that gushed through several rivers before finally spilling out to Manila Bay.

The Bungang Guinto project was one of 37 dredging projects the President had funded through a P90-million budget in June this year.

A DPWH report said all 37 projects were 81.20 percent completed as of July 28.

Rigor said she assured the President that the agency would find dumps for the dredged materials. It was not known if the agency had a budget for the lease or acquisition of land for that purpose.

Skepticism on the practice of dumping dredged materials along the riverbanks surfaced during the controversy on the P563 million the Pinatubo Project Management Office, the successor of the defunct Mt. Pinatubo Commission, spent for desilting and dredging projects.

Cory says she won't endorse anyone in 2004

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Former President Corazon Aquino said she is seriously considering not endorsing a candidate for president in 2004 because she is involved in a "People Power, People Movement" that she will launch soon.

Endorsing a candidate might lead the public to think that she has a personal agenda because the movement that she will launch will involve at least 20 foundations and non-government organizations.

She said it would be easier for her to get the movement off the ground if she is not directly involved in the 2004 elections.

"Of course I will vote, and I hope that we will all try to see that our elections are clean and honest," the former president told the INQUIRER here on Monday.

Ms Aquino said the "People Power, People Movement" will commemorate the 20th death anniversary of her martyred husband, former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, because she wants to do something more enduring than the usual annual anniversary activities.

Ninoy Aquino was gunned down on his return from the United States on Aug. 21, 1983 triggering a people power revolution that led to the ouster of strongman Ferdinand Marcos, who ruled the country for 20 years.

"In the same way that Ninoy was willing to offer his very life for our country, I would like Filipinos to offer something of themselves for our country, not only for Aug. 21, but perhaps for the rest of their lives," she said.

"I have chosen 20 organizations—non-government organizations and foundations—that have been helping Filipinos whose work, unfortunately, has not been known," she said.

Through these groups, she hopes to make Filipinos aware that there are good people who have the character traits of people power—love of country, selflessness and readiness to help their fellow Filipinos, she said.

"I hope these groups will inspire others to do something similar," she said.

"It's like making good news available to all, to give the people hope that all is not lost and, in fact, there are many good people in our country who are doing good things that can be emulated," she said.

"Those of us who are blessed should offer ourselves to make life better for others," she said. "I want as many Filipinos as possible to look within themselves and to ask themselves what they have they done for their country and what they intend to do for it."

Ms Aquino said that while the government has the main responsibility of helping uplift people's lives, it could not do so alone and would need the help of the citizenry.

While in Negros Occidental Monday, Ms Aquino, accompanied by former Gov. Daniel Lacson, visited a farmer's Kabisig project in Bago City.

Ms Aquino had introduced the Kabisig concept during her presidency and was implemented by Lacson in Negros Occidental.

Lacson said with a Technology Livelihood and Resource Center loan of P50 million, they put up a rice mill and warehouse in Bago City and gave loans to small farmers.

The project, implemented with the help of the University of St. La Salle, has helped 1,100 small farmers tilling 1,500 hectares of rice lands, he said.

"I am very happy to know that, through all these years, it is alive and doing well and I had the opportunity to meet with the farmers in Bago City," Ms Aquino said.

Bad bread downs 70 in Bataan, Subic

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—At least 70 people, including a three-year-old boy, were taken to the municipal health center of Morong, Bataan, and other hospitals in Olongapo City on Wednesday when they complained of nausea and stomachache after eating bread whose meat filling was believed spoiled.

Reports said the residents ate the bread called "Bun Me" on Tuesday night and later complained of dizziness and stomachache. The bread, which costs P15 each, was bought from a store near the municipal hall in Morong.

On Wednesday morning, some Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) employees, most of them from Freeport Service Corp., also bought bread from the store and later complained of bum stomachs.

They were taken to the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City for treatment.

Among the victims identified were SPO1 Jojo Gonzales and SPO1 Amado Cortes, both of the Morong police; Daniel Revelo, 3, and Aldwin Reyes, 31, an employee of the SBMA public works group.

Morong Mayor Norberto Linao Jr. said the municipal government would extend medical help to the victims. He said the police are still investigating the apparent food poisoning. *Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BATAAN teachers mob Lacson during his visit to the Bataan Teachers' Congress. PHOTO FROM LACSON OFFICE

Lacson vows: 'No turning back in 2004.'

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson vowed to pursue a campaign for the presidency in 2004 despite reports that he would withdraw from his plan to run should businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco stand as candidate for president.

In a statement issued from Balanga, Bataan, Lacson said it was Cojuangco himself who urged him to proceed with his plan to run for president in 2004.

"There's no turning back," said Lacson in his statement.

"He (Cojuangco) told me before to go ahead with my plan so I went ahead. Now that I've taken the plunge, I'm already in the middle of the river with my leaders and I would swim back? Now that we are in the midstream, there's no turning back," Lacson said.

Lacson said withdrawing from the campaign would be unfair for him and the people who volunteered their support for him. He said he did meet with Cojuangco on Feb. 27 and offered to withdraw from the presidential race should Cojuangco decide to run.

"But it was not for all eternity," said Lacson.

"If he decided then (to accept the offer) I was so sincere when I made the offer, but it doesn't mean my offer would last until the end of the world," he said.

"That's unfair. If he (Cojuangco) had told me give me two or three months, then it would be clear. But he never said that," Lacson added.

Lacson was in Balanga recently to speak before the Bataan Teacher's Congress.

During his visit, Lacson said he received a warm welcome from the people of Bataan.

Lacson said he took time to thank the people of Bataan for their votes in the 2001 race for senator. Lacson was fourth in the province's tally of winners in the Senate race.

Lacson said he told the Bataan people who turned out to see him that he would return to the province "as official candidate for president of the opposition."

Ziga urges use of weight bridges

FORMER senator Victor Ziga, former chairman of the Senate committee on public works and highways, to use and implement strictly weight limits in road weighing stations to prevent all overloaded trucks and vehicles from further causing damage to roads in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

In a statement, Ziga said that he observed personally and many other road users have relayed to him their concern of deteriorating road conditions that often result in delayed travel and also accidents that have killed people and destroyed property.

Ziga cited the condition of the Quirino highway in Quezon province which has now deteriorated badly that all vehicles must literally crawl to avoid countless gaping holes and portions for a distance of about 50 km.

Ozamiz execs use ex-drug dealers in war on drugs

OZAMIZ CITY—The local government here has employed the services of former drug peddlers to spy on their erstwhile colleagues as a one-month ultimatum to end trading of illicit drugs in this city enters its second week.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog Sr. disclosed that former drug peddlers were used because they are in the best position to watch over the activities of existing drug peddlers.

Most of them, he said, have voluntarily given up their illegal drug businesses since the local government issued the ultimatum against drug traders. They are serving the anti-drug campaign on a voluntary basis.

He added that the former drug pushers are regularly updating authorities on the activities of the peddlers, primarily if they have indeed taken steps to stop vending illicit drugs.

Parojinog declared the ultimatum on July 21 as a last "diplomatic straw" his leadership is offering drug peddlers to put an end to their illegal trade.

Police intelligence sources disclosed that there is a marked decline in retailing activities of illegal drugs particularly shabu since the ultimatum was declared, attributing it to the "toning down of selling operations."

Parojinog vowed to put his weight behind the renewed anti-drugs drive, hurting from an "unfounded PDEA (Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency) announcement" that included his family in the country's list of drug lords.

"If they remain defiant, these people (drug peddlers) have nothing to blame but themselves when the time comes," Parojinog warned.

As outlined in the local anti-drugs campaign plan, the houses of suspected drug peddlers who refuse to heed the ultimatum by Aug. 21 will be spray-painted with the message that reads "Drug Free Ozamiz, Bag-ong Ozamiznon."

"And they will face the full wrath of the law," he said.

"The time we have given them is already long enough, hence it justifies our waning patience against their continuing operations," the soft-spoken Parojinog told reporters.

To date, some 61 drug peddlers are facing charges in court for violating the Dangerous Drugs Law, said lawyer Cornelio Villarino Jr., city legal officer.

But these cases are grinding slowly in court because there is only one regional trial court judge here as of the moment, Villarino noted.

He batted for the appointment of new judges, and if possible the assignment of full time courts to focus only on drug-related cases. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cops say Cordillera farmers clearing land for marijuana

BAGUIO CITY—Police said some farmers in the Cordillera have already started clearing forests through kaingin (slash and burn farming) to prepare seedbeds for marijuana seedlings, which earn for farmers more than they do when planting regular crops.

Supt. Danilo Flordeliza, regional director of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, said reports showed farmers in some areas in Mt. Province, Kalinga and northern Benguet were preparing the seedbeds for planting during the rainy season.

Flordeliza confirmed reports that some rice and vegetable farmers have shifted to marijuana planting because cultivating marijuana is more lucrative than planting traditional crops.

He said they have identified at least seven hectares of marijuana plantations in Mt. Province.

An official of a farmer's group here said most farmers have shifted to planting marijuana because of the crisis in the vegetable industry.

"The farmers admitted that they did not want to resort to this unlawful practice because they know the bad effects of illegal drugs. But they said the situation in the vegetable industry is pushing them to resort to marijuana planting because they need to survive," said Fernando Bagyan, a secretariat member of the Alyansa Dagiti Pesante Ti Taeng Kordilyera (Apit-Tako).

"If the government provides the needed infrastructures like farm to market roads, then we will have a bigger chance to stop this practice."

In a press forum on Wednesday, PDEA officials said marijuana leaves and seedlings worth at least P114 million were confiscated from January to June this year in the Cordillera.

Police also confiscated P129,000 worth of shabu in the region during the same period.

These marijuana plants were confiscated in eradication campaigns in Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mt. Province and Baguio City.

Supt. Francisco Manalo, Baguio City police director, said the police were monitoring 25 barangays in the city, where illegal drug trade and use were reported.

"We are hoping that there is no existing shabu laboratory in Baguio City. We have been hearing reports (about this) already, but we still have to validate these reports," Manalo said.

At least 123 barangays in the Cordillera were classified by the PDEA as drug affected, reports said. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Former AFP chief of staff warns of second round

By Carlito Pablo

CRITICS had ridiculed retired Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia when he aired a warning about restiveness in the military last year. To them, Abadia can only say now, with a deep sense of sorrow: I told you so.

Early last November, Abadia talked to the INQUIRER and said that the government should take coup threats seriously because of various issues roiling the armed services.

For sounding the alarm, Abadia, who served as military chief under the Aquino and Ramos administrations, was savaged by members of the military establishment, members of the House and Senate, the Catholic Church, and Malacañang.

In two interviews after the July 27 Oakwood mutiny, Abadia recalled that after his warning was published, he was called to lunch with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo in Malacañang.

"When I talked with the President and Secretary Romulo last November, these were the same issues that were relayed to me: disparity in pay, graft and corruption, leadership style of (Defense) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes, and favoritism in assignments, etc," Abadia said.

"I said ... if we are slow in addressing these ... *puputok ito* (this will explode)," Abadia recalled.

Noting that these were also the issues raised by the Magdalo rebels, Abadia said: "It appears that the government was either very slow in implementing reforms or none were put in place."

Abadia warned that "if the government mishandles this thing again, there will be a second round."

"It might be worse," he said.

Abadia added: "We don't need additional laws as there are already existing corrective mechanisms in place, but the question is why, for example, graft and corruption in the military is not being thoroughly addressed."

Abadia recalled that during his time, he ordered the court martial of personnel in the Army's 4th Division over reports that they were selling ammunition to the enemy.

"If I receive persistent reports about certain officers, I force their retirement," Abadia said.

The restiveness he detected last November remains, he said. The "restiveness in the military is broad and deep."

He then joked: "Only the generals are not restive."

Abadia said that four days before the Oakwood mutiny, he sought out a ranking administration official to "warn the government that some military officers will be conducting an exercise."

"My information was very general," he said. "A number of officers still talk to me."

Abadia said that he didn't know how the government treated his information, but he recalled that when the Oakwood mutiny happened, the one he had relayed the information to told him: "Sir, *tama pala kayo* (you were right, after all)."

Abadia acknowledged that he was not popular in the President's inner circle "because I'm known to call a spade a spade."

"But no matter, I still informed them about what information came to me because I'm loyal to the government," Abadia said.

"It's still our government, it's still our country and everybody has a stake," Abadia said.

Dinky angry: Mutineers anarchists ...

From page A1

"Excuse me, but you just pushed us back two to three steps behind."

Soliman also said the mutiny leaders were "not honest enough" to tell their recruits about their motives and financiers.

She said the mutiny had political backing, supposedly primarily indicated by the rebels' very demands, foremost of which was the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"When you ask for the President's resignation, you cannot not know who's going to be the replacement," she said. "Otherwise you're just an anarchist."

She said the mutineers' allegations, like the sale of ammunition to Moro separatists, "only serve the interest of political players if they are unsubstantiated."

She wondered aloud how the mutineers managed to get satellite phones, velcro pads on their armbands, and flags made of relatively expensive material when they were griping about the military's insufficient funds.

SOLIMAN: Hurting pour

NAVY Ltsg. Antonio Trillanes IV

"I think part of their agenda was to erode the economy and government authority even if they don't succeed in grabbing power," she said.

Soliman said she was particularly concerned about the people the DSWD had tried to help become self-employed under its "micro-financing" program.

She said the DSWD had released some P143 million as seed capital for close to 30,000 families nationwide so they could put up small businesses like *sari-sari* stores.

"What [the mutineers] did was hurt the poor ... and in fact lends more to corruption because more people will now be pushed deeper into poverty," she said.

GMA heaps praise on Corpus for sacrifice

From page A1

room in the Palace.

The President also announced Corpus will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence.

But the five core leaders of the July 27 mutiny in Makati City cheered Corpus' resignation, according to lawyer Argee Guevarra who said he visited the officers Thursday morning at their "detention cells."

"They were elated by the development. They respect Corpus' decision to quit," Guevarra said of Navy Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Marine Capt. Gary Alejano, and Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo. All are being held at the Isafp headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

But the five officers, however, all members of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995, were dismayed by Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' determination to stay put at his post, Guevarra told reporters.

Why not Reyes

"They were asking why the others are so insensitive that they don't want to resign," he said in reference to Reyes whose resignation, along with that of Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, the mutineers had also demanded.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan hailed Corpus' resignation but said Reyes' ouster was necessary to give credence to any investigation of corruption in the military.

"Witnesses will be afraid to come out and testify because Reyes effectively still controls the defense department and the [AFP]," Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño said in an interview. "Unless Reyes resigns or is suspended, no credible and independent investigation can go on."

Corpus' resignation was but a start and should not be treated as an end in itself, Casiño said.

"We welcome [his] resignation, but it is not enough. The government should also investigate him for his role in the Davao bombings and other criminal activities, as alleged by the mutinous junior officers last Sunday," Casiño said.

"He should not be given any new position unless he is cleared of these charges and his other illegal activities, including the ridiculous spy operations on legal, democratic mass organizations and their activists."

No regrets

Agence France Presse quoted Guevarra as saying that the five officers "have not expressed any regret" for staging the mutiny.

"What they did was correct, according to them," Guevarra said. "They said that even within prison they will continue their fight."

He also said the officers felt betrayed because the government supposedly reneged on a deal to keep them in military barracks after their surrender and for their units to be kept intact.

Trillanes, Layug, Alejano, Gambala and Maestrecampo are confined in individual cells at the Isafp compound but are allowed to see one another and move within the building during the day, Guevarra told reporters.

Despite certain limitations, such as being prohibited from using mobile phones and watching TV, the officers are "in good spirits," he said.

Incommunicado

Trillanes' mother Estelita told the INQUIRER that her son was being treated well. She confirmed that her son and the others were in "incommunicado detention."

Asked what she thought of her son's not being allowed to return to barracks, she said: "It is for [his] own safety."

But the five officers are "concerned" that the rebel soldiers confined in mother units could be held incommunicado and forced to make "coerced confessions" or "incriminatory statements," Guevarra said.

He said another lawyer was trying to find out in which military camps the other mutineers were now detained.

The AFP hierarchy has ordered a hunt for the 100 soldiers from the Army, Navy and Air Force who were allied with the mutineers and who remained unaccounted for.

"We are trying to track them down and account for them, whether they're still in their respective units or have gone Awol. Some have identities, some have none," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff.

On Wednesday, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya admitted that the launching of another mutiny was not far-fetched because some sympathizers of the rebel group remained unaccounted for.

'Stop glorifying them'

Militant organizations, including the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and the Kilusang Mayo Uno, have upheld some of the grievances raised by the mutineers, who accused Reyes and Corpus of masterminding the bombings in Davao City, and Reyes of spearheading the sale of firearms and ammunition to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, New People's Army and Abu Sayyaf.

Both men have denied this. Reyes said he was doing his job well.

AFP information officer Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero appealed to the public and the media to stop glorifying the mutineers or face a similar uprising in the future.

"We should condemn this military adventurism; we should not glorify what they have done," he said.

Lucero said the media were "lionizing these mutinous officers" and "giving a negative signal to other officers."

"This will entice other officers to do the same," he said. "We are planting seeds that might eventually erode the democratic system that we have long known."

Lucero called on military officers to "always stick to the chain of command."

"As members of the military, we surrender some of our rights," he said. "We don't have business dealing with politics. If some members of the Armed Forces put their finger in political concerns, they should resign their commissionship and run for public office." *With reports from Norman Bordadora, Edson Tandoc Jr., AFP*

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Businessmen warn vs state of rebellion

From page A1

pression that there was still fighting and shooting in the streets.

"It creates a misimpression of the real state of the country, especially to foreign investors (who) do not have an intimate knowledge of the Philippine setting," Luz said.

'What can you expect ...?'

The President was irked by the lack of gratitude of big businessmen from Makati for her swift and bloodless resolution of the Oakwood mutiny.

During the MOPC open forum, the President said, "I thought they would appreciate that I solved it peacefully within 20 hours without any damage to property."

"And what do I get in return?"

"This awful statement from Makati Business Club president."

"What do you expect from a lawyer of Piatco?

The President was referring to lawyer Ricardo Romulo, who is a counsel of Piatco which is embroiled in a legal battle over the control and operation of the Naia Terminal 3.

Traders can't understand

Luz said businessmen could not understand what advantages the government would gain by maintaining the state of rebellion when they could arrest and prosecute those behind the mutiny even without such a declaration.

No matter how many times Malacañang and military officials claimed they were in control, Dee pointed out, the indefinite implementation of the state of rebellion would send a louder and clearer message to foreign businessmen that the coup plot against the government was far from contained.

"How can you expect foreign investors to put their money or foreign buyers to place their orders when the government itself feels that the threat was serious enough to maintain the state of rebellion indefinitely?"

Instead of retaining the state of rebellion indefinitely, Dee said, the government should address the issues raised by the Magdalo group in order to regain the confidence of businessmen. "Confidence in the government will never be restored if they just sweep these issues under the rug," Dee said.

To Supreme Court

But senators decried what they said was precisely an assault on the country's democracy.

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he would question the legality of the declaration before the Supreme Court, while opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara accused the President of "inventing" a non-existent scenario.

"There is no legal animal called state of rebellion," Angara, a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, said.

"We will be asking the Supreme Court to decide on the issue, ask its opinion to decide if this is right," Pimentel told reporters. "It will be a direct challenge to them (Malacañang)."

The senator said he was now preparing his petition to the high court.

He stressed that the declaration of a state of rebellion was not defined or stated in the law.

Angara said as much: "This invention is not doing honor to the rule of law ... because (it is not found) in the Constitution and the penal code."

EDWIN BACASMAS

GESTURE of respect and welcome from Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid for President Macapagal as she arrives Thursday for the 25th anniversary celebration of Carworld Inc. in Barangay Dolores, San Fernando City.

He emphasized that a declaration of a state of rebellion was "legally and constitutionally wrong."

Angara explained that what the Constitution and the Revised Penal Code, which penalizes rebellion, contemplated was rather a state of emergency.

"Whoever invented this fiction is not doing justice to legal tradition and history, and is, in fact, misleading the public," he said.

He said he believed that when the President declared a state of rebellion on Sunday, she had "eliminated all safeguards that afforded ordinary citizens constitutional protection."

Thus, anyone could be arrested without a warrant, he said.

Angara also took up the cudgels for his ally, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, who is being linked by the government to the failed Magdalo mutiny.

He stressed that Honasan was not a fugitive from the law because he was not "running away from a formal charge."

He also called on the media not to "follow the line (of) the administration" that the political opposition was associated with the mutiny.

"Any government would need a political opposition that prefers to debate and discuss rather than shoot and bomb," he said.

No martial law

Ms Macapagal assured the public that martial law would not be imposed, even as she insisted that there was a need for the state of rebellion to continue in force.

"This is not a stage for martial law or its repressive implications. This is plain pursuit of criminal justice."

The President said plotters, operators, financiers and backers, both in and out of government, were still out in the cold. "We will expose them and bring them to justice," she said.

She said her administration had launched preemptive measures—administratively, operationally and politically—to complete its unfinished business.

She said the military's top brass had been in "close contact dialogue" with junior officers to stop the spread of what she called "adverse psychological intrusions."

The President expressed confidence that her administration would "rapidly consolidate" its gains as the mutiny commission begins its work and the military and civilian processes get on track.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye declined to make an assessment of the potency of the "live" coup plot.

He also shrugged off the businessmen's concerns. "We wish we could accommodate them as soon as possible. But from the viewpoint of the President, there are some things to be done that do not warrant the lifting of the state of rebellion."

Bunye added: "It's a judgment call on the part of the President. We wish we could allay fears of business community as soon as possible."

Reyes to stay

Ms Macapagal also rejected the mutineers' demand to sack Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

"I am keeping my security team intact," Ms Macapagal said, when asked if she would fire Reyes, a day after Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus resigned as military intelligence chief.

Reyes also told the congressional probe into the mutiny that he did not have any intention of stepping down.

"I will resign if I am the problem. But I am not the problem, I am part of the solution," Reyes said.

"The people who want me to resign... are moving towards a certain objective, they want to reach that objective and I am standing in the way."

"I will stand in their way. I'll stay here," he said. *With reports from Juliet Javellana, Christine Avendaño, Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio, Doris Dumlao; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AFP, AP, Reuters*

Coup charges filed against 321 rebels

From page A1

The complaint filed by the National Bureau of Investigation in the Department of Justice named the respondents as "Army Capt. Laurence Louis B. Somera, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jigger B. Montallana, Trillanes, Navy Lt. Norberto E. Santiago Jr., and Marines Capt. Edmar B. Soriaso et al."

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the Armed Forces sent the list of names of the 215 other respondents, including the other rebel leaders Army Captains Gerardo O. Gambala and Milo D. Maestrecampo.

In all, the respondents numbered 33 officers and 91 enlisted personnel from the Army, 12 officers from the Air Force, 31 officers and 55 enlisted personnel from the Navy, and 22 officers and 77 enlisted personnel from the Marines.

The rebel soldiers are already facing court martial proceedings under the Articles of War, which provide a maximum penalty of death.

But since mutiny is not listed as a heinous crime in the death penalty law, which in fact has been suspended, the maximum punishment for such an offense is life imprisonment, according to Maj. Agustin Matavia, chief of the Judge Advocate General's legal service division.

If convicted of coup d'etat, the rebel soldiers face a maximum of 20 years in prison, and their leaders, as much as 40 years.

Their civilian supporters could get a maximum of 20 years.

By force

The complaint signed by NBI Assistant Director Lolito Utitco said the rebel soldiers "abandoned their designated posts and illegally brought with them firearms and ammunition and other military equipment."

"The armed rebel soldiers who occupied and took control of the Oakwood Premier hotel by force, intimidation and threat publicly, as seen on national television and heard over radio broadcast, declared their withdrawal of support and took arms against the duly constituted government headed by President Macapagal-Arroyo," it said.

"[They] rose publicly and showed open hostility for the purpose of removing allegiance to the government, certain bodies of the AFP and the PNP, and depriving the President, wholly or partially, of her powers and prerogatives or diminishing state power, which constitute the crime of 'coup d'etat.'

"Particularly, they demanded the resignation of the President and the members of her official Cabinet, as well as the top officials of the AFP and the PNP, and sought the implementation of their National Recovery Program."

Justice Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez said the NBI's evidence included video tapes, the firearms and ammunition surrendered, and the affidavits of witnesses, including the Oakwood management and the security guards whom the rebel soldiers disarmed.

Also among the evidence were military officers' affidavits of the rebel soldiers' arrest and a copy of President Macapagal-Arroyo's proclamation of a state of rebellion.

Maj. Gen. Efren Abu, head of the anti-coup task force in Metro Manila, also gave a sworn statement on the rebel soldiers' movements during the mutiny.

Different from court martial

Gutierrez said the charges filed in the DOJ were different from the court martial proceedings because the charges could be eventually be filed before the judiciary.

She said the mutineers could also be tried by civil courts because they violated civil law.

She explained that the military courts that would try the rebel soldiers under military law were not "judicial courts" in the proper sense but "executive courts under the executive branch of government."

Gutierrez said the court martial proceedings could proceed alongside the DOJ's preliminary investigation into the charges against the rebel soldiers.

The DOJ has formed three panels of state prosecutors to handle the rebellion or coup d'etat charges against the rebel soldiers. The panels may conduct the preliminary investigation in the various military camps where the soldiers are being held, Gutierrez said.

"I don't think it will be practical if they come here. So the investigation could be done wherever [they] are being held," she said.

The state prosecutors assigned to the three DOJ panels are Perfecto Lawrence Chua Cheng V, Susan Dacanay, Rosanne Balauag, Edna Valenzuela, Roberto Lao, Mark Jalandoni, Misael Ladaga, Juan Pedro Navera, and Sebastian Caponong.

"There is reason to believe that the offense of mutiny has been committed and that the participants might probably be guilty thereof," the JAG's Matavia said at a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo.

He cited the officers' "concerted insubordination" and disobedience to duly constituted authorities, adding: "Without negotiations, we fairly believe that they would not have laid down their arms and surrendered custody of their persons."

Matavia further pointed out that the evidence seized from the rebels, including the cache of firearms, ammunition and communication gadgets, as well as the testimony of soldiers, would be used against them.

Quoting the Articles of War, Matavia defined mutiny thus: "Any person subject to military law who attempts to create or who begins, excites, causes or joins in any mutiny or sedition in any company, party, post, camp, detachment, guard or other command shall be imposed the penalty of death or other punishment as the court martial may direct."

Hitch

This early, the JAG's preliminary investigation is being hobbled by a minor hitch: some Navy soldiers involved in the Oakwood takeover have refused to submit sworn statements.

"I understand that there are some who do not want to submit their statements and they prefer, under the Constitution, to remain silent," Col. Mariano Sarmiento, the judge advocate general, said at the same briefing.

But he was quick to say that the JAG would press ahead with the investigation. *With reports from TJ Burgonio, Leila B. Salaverria and Armand N. Nocum*

Cardenas ailing

RAMON "Eki" Cardenas, Presidential Management Staff chief during the Estrada administration and the first political leader to be charged in connection with the mutiny, is ailing under detention at the Philippine National Police hospital in Camp Crame.

Cardenas was taken to the hospital at around 6 p.m. Wednesday because of "fluctuating" blood pressure, said Supt. Jun Catly, one of several doctors who received him.

Catly said Cardenas' condition was being closely monitored especially because he had a history of "schemic heart disease."

Cardenas had complained of a sore throat and difficulty in breathing while held at the nearby compound of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency and Response team, according to Senior Supt. Georgia Regalado, chief of the PNP hospital.

The detainee's counsel, Rene Saguisag, yesterday said his client's condition might have been a result of the "stressful situation" brought about by the man's arrest on Monday.

"Our conversation was a struggle because of his sore throat," Saguisag told reporters, recounting his visit to Cardenas' hospital room yesterday afternoon.

Cardenas was charged with rebellion Tuesday after authorities seized guns, ammunition and other items at his house in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

The seized items supposedly belonged to the mutineers who commandeered the Oakwood serviced apartments on July 27.

The house was used as a "staging area" by the mutineers, according to the NBI and the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Saguisag and his fellow counsel Felix Carao Jr. claimed that the items had been planted in Cardenas' house.

Saguisag also described the charge against his client as a "joke," and said: "This is the only rebellion case I know [wherein] there's only one accused."

At the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, ousted President Joseph Estrada said the government was engaged in a "perception war" and was building up a scenario where he would be blamed for the mutiny.

"What else do they want from me? I'm already in jail," he told the INQUIRER. *"Pinipilit nila akong isabit* (They are working hard to implicate me)."

Commenting on the planned filing of a complaint of coup d'etat against his mistress Laarni Enriquez, Estrada said his lawyers were preparing to fight the issue in court.

The Sandiganbayan yesterday summoned PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and Supt. Prospero Noble for them to explain in today's hearing why they should not be cited in contempt for transferring Estrada to Camp Aguinaldo during the mutiny.

The two men were summoned on the request of Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia, who said the transfer was illegal because there was no court order on the matter and the security threat was not as strong as to warrant it.

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US town backs Pinoy family facing deportation

From page A1

months of their arrival, the Agandas bought the Selah Dry Cleaners & Laundry.

They then petitioned immigration authorities for a change in their status from visitors to investors. The request was turned down.

The federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, then the US Immigration and Naturalization Service, believed the Aganda family's intent had always been to stay in the United States.

Fearful of being deported, the Agandas sought political asylum in 1993. Judy said she and her family wanted to escape threats and extortion attempts from the New People's Army, a communist rebel group that the United States tagged last year as a terrorist organization.

Even so, the Agandas' request was denied and their subsequent appeal was likewise rejected.

Garrison Courtney, a spokesperson of the immigration bureau, said the agency would have no choice but to enforce the final federal deportation order.

"If they don't show up for deportation, they become absconders," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer quoted Courtney as saying. "We would go out and look for them. It's the equivalent of jumping bail."

The Agandas' passports have expired. Even so, Courtney said the federal government would obtain the necessary travel documents for the Agandas.

"Right now, it's OK," the Seattle Post-Intelligencer quoted Judy Aganda as saying. "I'm concentrating on renewing our passports." *AP*

HELP!!!! GIVE
SAVE AGAN
DON'T DEPORT!

A SIGNATURE campaign and streamers in support of the Aganda family is a community effort with Jennylyn (right) getting a lot of help from her friends. AP

Internet adultery on the rise in US

From page A1

nology to check on an increasingly popular hideaway for trysts—the Internet.

Divorce lawyers and marriage counselors say Internet-abetted infidelity, romance originating in chat rooms and fueled by e-mails, is now one of the leading factors in marital breakdowns.

With the surge in cyberaffairs, a new market for electronic spying has developed. Websites such as Chatcheaters.com and InfidelityCheck.org describe an array of surveillance products capable of tracking a cheating spouse's e-mails and online chats, including some that can monitor each key stroke in real time.

"The traditional detective hired to chase information is being replaced by software that's not terribly expensive but can give you 100 times the information," said John Mayoue, a prominent divorce lawyer from Atlanta.

"It used to be that when you wanted to prove adultery, you would prove it circumstantially," he said. "In the computer era, I can have something that is so graphic, so clear, there's not a whole lot of room for argument."

John LaSage, a Southern Californian, established the Chatcheaters website after his wife of 23 years left him and their two teenage daughters without forewarning in 1999 to join a New Zealand man she had met online.

Chatcheaters—which offers advice, surveillance equipment and first-person stories of betrayal—averages 400 visitors a day, mostly women, LaSage said. His wares include $450 vehicle trackers and $100 computer-spying programs.

LaSage said he was devastated to discover, after his wife had left, that she had engaged in erotic e-mail and chat room correspondence with several men.

"I tell people to be careful—you have to be prepared for what you're going to see," he said.

Sandra Morris, a San Diego attorney who is president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, said the spread of Internet infidelity had raised some complicated issues about computer privacy.

"A spouse may have a misplaced sense of entitlement to spy," she said. "There are prohibitions against electronic eavesdropping, though a lot of people feel that when someone's cheating, all bets are off."

Mayoue said federal statutes outlawing interception of electronic communications could apply within a marriage.

"A spouse does have a right to privacy even from his or her own spouse," he said. "I've been on both sides of this—it's the most compelling evidence you'll have in a divorce case, but also the most fraught with potential liability."

A suspicious husband or wife may have no legal grounds for breaking into code-word-protected areas of a spouse's personal computer, but may be able to justify reading an e-mail that was easily retrieved on a shared family computer, Mayoue said.

David Greenfield, a Connecticut psychologist and author of the book, "Virtual Addiction," said many spouses engaged in cyberaffairs considered their online romances to be harmless.

"But the spouses of those who are cheating don't see it that way," Greenfield said. "It's often done on the same computer they both use at home. It's like having someone else in your own bedroom."

He said the convenience and seeming anonymity of the Internet have attracted a new breed of adulterers, people who might have been too timid to make their first forays into infidelity face-to-face.

"Affairs have always existed," Greenfield said. "But the fact that you can connect with people all over the world with relative ease and no cost lowers that threshold."

A University of Florida researcher, Beatriz Mileham, studied Internet infidelity as part of her doctoral dissertation, interviewing 76 men and 10 women who used popular chat rooms called "Married and Flirting" and "Married But Flirting."

Most of the participants insisted they loved their spouses but sought a romantic encounter online because of boredom or their partner's disinterest in sex, Mileham found.

She said 24 of the participants ended up having a real-life affair with at least one of the people they met online. *AP*

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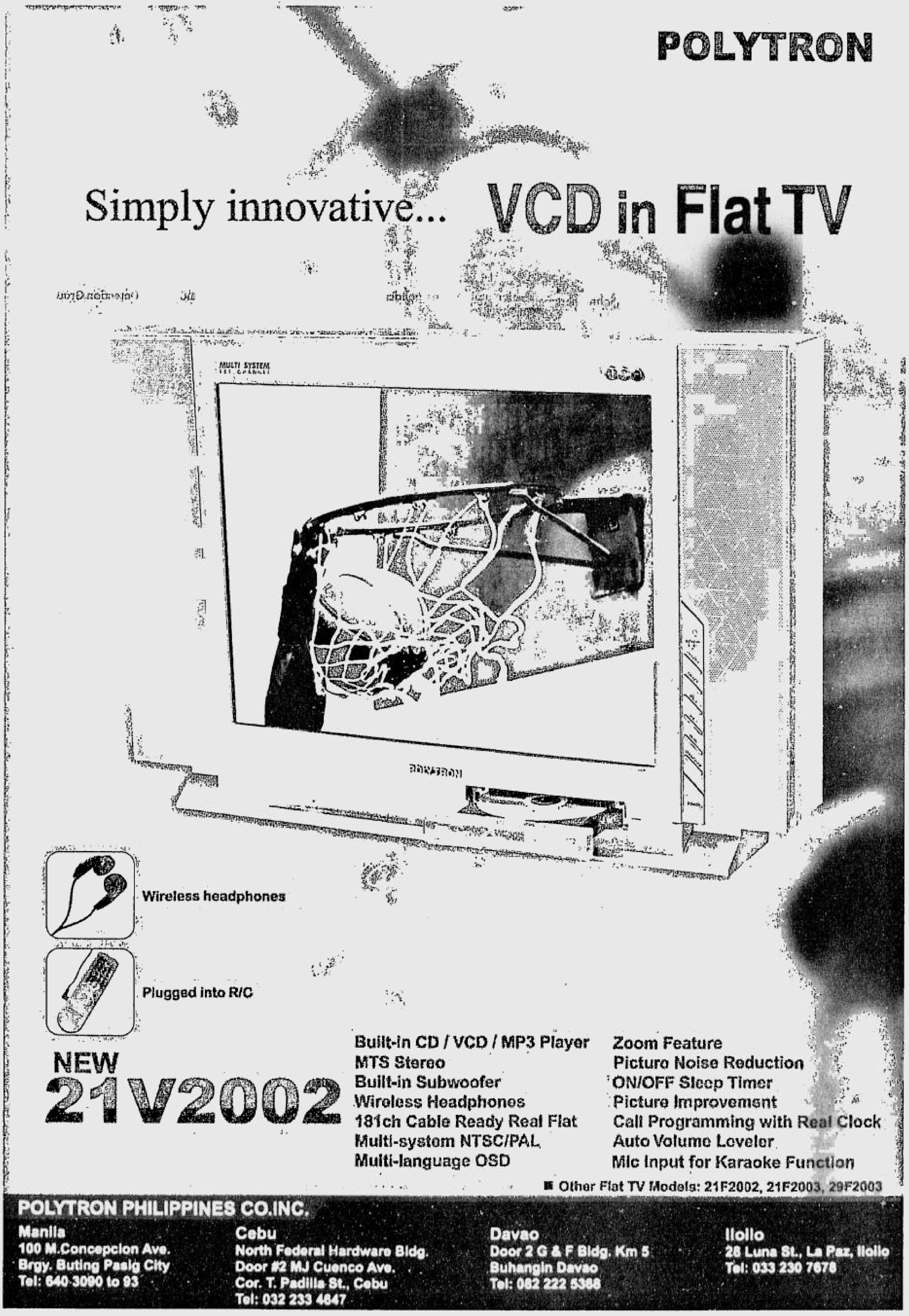
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Golez denounces junta

From page A1

patriots.

The document labeled each participant to the revolution as "The Patriot" or "The New Filipino Hero," who is willing to lay down his life in the pursuit of this vision.

"As much as possible, damage to life and property will be avoided but when it becomes necessary in the accomplishment of the mission ... the patriots will not hesitate damage to life and property," Golez said citing excerpts from the document.

Bible

Once the assumption of power by extra-constitutional means was complete, the transitional government would implement the National Recovery Program. The NRP, authored by Sen. Gregorio Honasan, was considered the bible of the mutineers.

The transitional government would be headed by a chair who would act as the head of state. However, it was not clear how the members of the junta would be selected.

Golez said Malacañang was making public the document to belie the statement of rebel military officers that they did not intend to grab power.

He said copies of the document were circulated by the rebels during the recruitment phase of the rebellion.

New order

The document said the revolution was aimed at installing a "new order" characterized as follows :

- Lasting peace and prosperity for the country.
- A free, educated and responsible Filipino citizenry bound together by a national identity uniting them regardless of religion, culture, social status and ideology.
- Sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- A truly democratic government founded on equality and social justice with an election process reflecting the true will of an informed people.
- Governance guided by social equity.
- An efficient and professional bureaucracy of honest, humble, competent and hardworking public servants.
- Public policy-making defined solely by national interest.
- National interest centered solely on public welfare.

What the government called a coup attempt fizzled out 22 hours later, with the soldiers returning to barracks to face court martial.

Nearly 300 military mutineers occupied part of Manila's financial district of Makati, demanding the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and other officials.

At the hearing, Golez defended the intelligence community, which, he said, had not been remiss in its duty to update the President on the then brewing coup.

Blood compact

He said the President, being the Commander in Chief, was regularly informed about the latest developments on the brewing restiveness among the junior officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2), told the committee that military intelligence was able to monitor the movements of the rebels as early as June—from the recruitment stage, to their meetings. In one instance, participants made a blood compact by signing their agreement with their blood.

Cabuay said J-2 also monitored the movements of troops in Mindanao before the Makati mutiny and the officers who took Cebu Air flights to Manila for the mutiny.

They knew

Asked by congressmen why they were not able to prevent the mutiny when they knew from the start that it was brewing, Golez said that the rebels could not be arrested because they had not committed a crime at that time and that no charges had been filed against them.

But Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental said there was already sufficient basis to charge the rebels under the Articles of War. He said the rebels could also be charged with being absent without official leave (Awol).

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV should be held liable for violation of Article 63 of the Articles of War. This provision metes out stiff punishment to officers, who exhibit disrespect for democratic institutions and for those in the military chain of command, including the President.

But Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, pointed out that most of the officers, who were involved in the rebellion, had a valid excuse when questioned about their absence from their posts during the recruitment stage.

He said all of them, except for Army Captain Gerardo Gambala who was on schooling, were out on legitimate R&R pass.

Abaya said the rebels could be charged only after the pre-trial stage of the investigation, the first stage of court martial proceedings. If the result of the pretrial investigation warrants the filing of charges under the Articles of War, then a court martial will be convened by the Commander in Chief to try their cases.

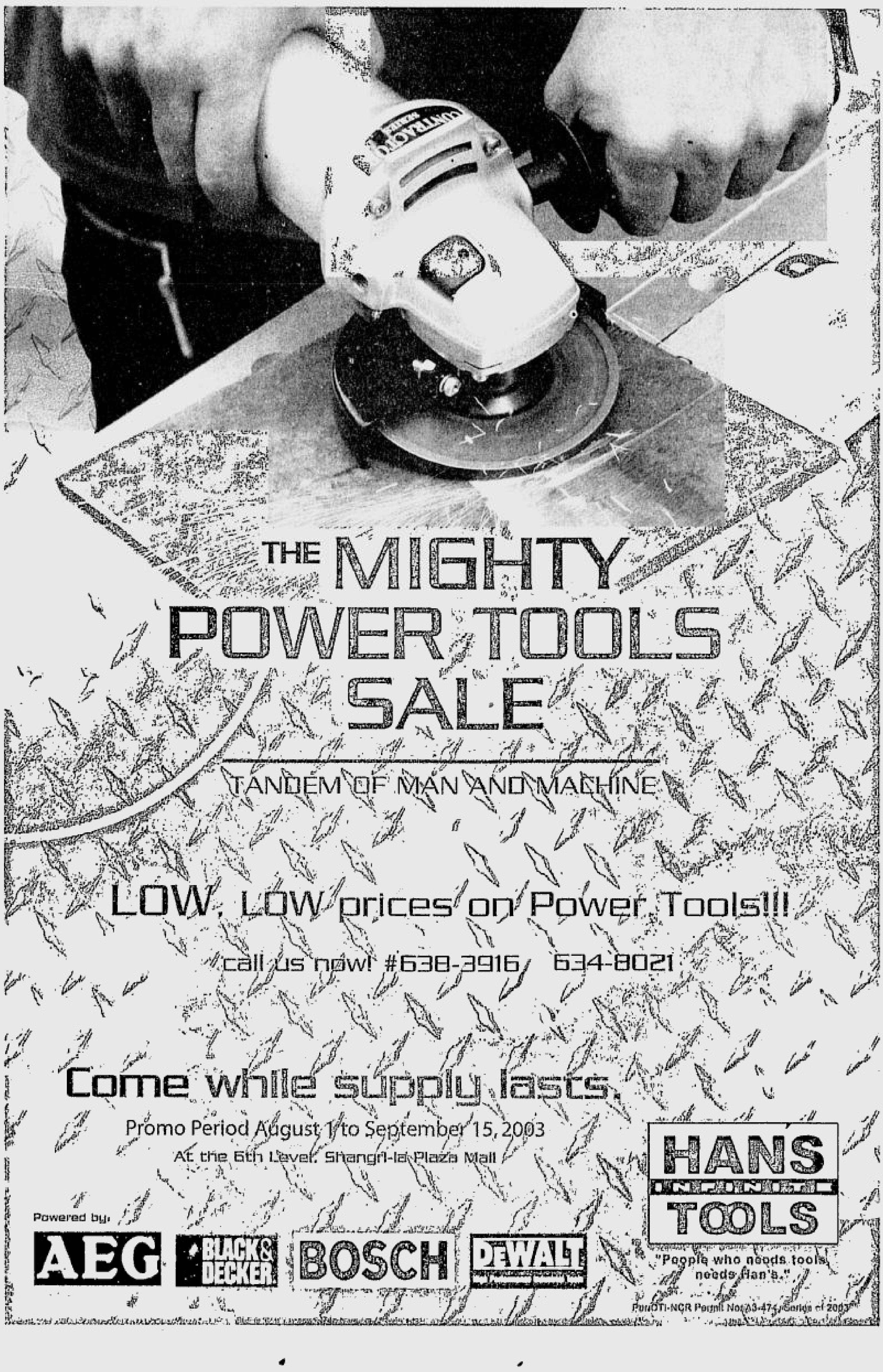
Not betrayal

Ambassador Roy Cimatu, the government's official negotiator with the rebels during the mutiny, denied that the President betrayed the officers when they were arrested after their surrender.

Trillanes had called the President "a traitor" for not living up to her promise to let them go when they agreed to return to barracks. The rebels were placed under tactical interrogation in Fort Bonifacio before they were transferred to the maximum security compound of the Intelligence Service of the AFP for detention.

Abaya said "return to the barracks" was a figurative language, which does not necessarily mean returning to their place of stay.

Cimatu said the President had never made this commitment to Trillanes or any of the coup plotters. "We were present during the negotiations and there were no tapes or records of the proceedings. It was a tableless discussion," he said. *AFP*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Senate to compel mutineers to testify

THE AFP chief of staff said he would also not allow the officers to appear before the Senate committee of the whole for the same reason.

Senators led by Senate President Franklin Drilon said they may have to compel the AFP to allow the leaders of the mutiny to testify before the chamber.

"I would strongly suggest that they honor this invitation so that we do not have to resort to the more compulsive process of a subpoena," Drilon told reporters.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., and Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III expressed fears that the mutineers were being prevented to "tell the truth."

"This development is ominous in a sense that there is an unseen hand trying to prevent the unearthing of the truth regarding the complaints of the rebel soldiers," Pimentel told reporters.

Pimentel said preventing the mutineers from telling the truth was a "terrible thing and could even be criminal."

"The problem is they (military) will have to deal with the speculation that people and media will come up with," Sotto said. "So it will be best if they will allow them to attend the hearings."

But Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said congressional inquiries into the mutiny could wait until the criminal prosecution of the mutineers.

6 officers barred . . .

From page A1

entire country?" Homobono Adaza, counsel of the leaders of the mutiny, said.

Adaza said his clients were supposed to be moved at 6 a.m. "But come 7 or 8 a.m., the military said that they couldn't go."

He said the military apparently wanted to suppress his clients' right to speak about the grievances that impelled them to rebel against the government.

Akbayan party-list Rep. Loretta Rosales said it was a pity that the military could not even ensure the safety of the six rebel leaders when it had been able to provide adequate security to former President Joseph Estrada every time he was brought to the Sandiganbayan to attend his trial on plunder charges.

Rep. Didagen Dilangalen of Maguindanao said Abaya should resign for incompetence because the AFP chief of staff could not guarantee the safety of transporting the rebel soldiers from the Isafp to the Batasan, which is also in Quezon City.

Dilangalen said Abaya's decision proved that the government was still not in control of the crisis.

For almost an hour, legislators argued whether to push through with the investigation without the rebel soldiers and took turns lambasting Abaya. The committee decided to proceed with the probe by hearing testimony from government and military officials.

Hearing at Isafp

Abaya suggested to the committee that it conduct its investigation at Isafp in an executive session (not open to the media).

Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, chair of the committee, said it was not for Abaya to make a counteroffer because the request of the committee was specific: To allow the officers to testify.

In justifying his decision not to allow the appearance of the junior officers, Abaya said that some rebel soldiers were still at large and unaccounted for.

"I don't know the exact number of the still unaccounted for, but we believe that there were those who left before, during and after the Makati mutiny. They have not reported back. We are speaking here of nationwide," Abaya said.

But Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, said that most of the 100 soldiers from the Army, Navy and Air Force earlier reported missing had been accounted for.

Rep. Rolex Suplico said Abaya's excuse did not speak well of a military in control of the situation. "When the President congratulated the military after the mutiny, she said it was a job well-done. Is that really a job well-done or a job half-done?" Suplico asked.

"To me, the most prudent thing to do is not to transport them at this time," Abaya said. "And I will stick by my decision."

Not proper time

Biazon said he didn't believe that this was the time for congressional inquiries because Abaya and now resigned Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus did say that there was still a risk of yet another disturbance.

"Probably it is best that we wait until everything is settled. Let us allow the executive department to do what it has to do," Biazon said at a news briefing. By doing so, "this could quell any future attempt by any sympathizer" of the rebel group Magdalo, he added.

If the inquiry was really necessary, he would propose that it be conducted in the confines of a secured place, probably where the mutineers are detained, Biazon said.

Drilon said that he was open to the idea of the Senate conducting hearings in Camp Aguinaldo but that he would still await the reply of the military to the chamber's invitation.

Holding the hearing at the Senate has the support of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, a former senator.

"I do not agree that they should be (prevented from) attending the congressional inquiry," Ople said at his weekly news conference. "You cannot draw out the facts unless you allow the soldiers to testify."

Ople said he expected President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Commander in Chief, to overrule the military leadership's position not to allow the mutiny leaders to attend the congressional hearings.

Honasan to be charged

Also at the House hearing was Interior Secretary Jose Lina, who said Sen. Gregorio Honasan would soon be charged with violation of Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code, which punishes the crime of coup.

Lina, who pushed for the inclusion of this provision in the Penal Code when he was still a senator, said the government had strong evidence to link Honasan to the failed mutiny. He said the documents were being prepared by the police.

He said Honasan was also the head of the Guardian Brotherhood, which is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Lina stressed the need to unmask Honasan to avoid misleading the public about his criminal activities.

Lina said civilian volunteers identified with Honasan had helped man roads in Makati that allowed the rebels to take over Oakwood, an upscale commercial and residential building.

"Together with the soldiers who will be charged with coup d'etat are civilians who conspired, confederated and collaborated with the soldiers who mutinied and who participated in the coup d'etat," he said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, for his part, denied he was behind the bombings in Davao City to justify the government's request for US military assistance.

Reyes also denied micro-managing the AFP, saying he has no operational control over field commanders.

"If your secretary of national defense is behind the bombings in Davao, then we are in deep, deep trouble because he might do it again," said Reyes. "But the fact is I did not order the bombings in Davao. I did not do it."

Asked if the document recovered from the rebels who took over Oakwood Center detailing the establishment of a junta should the mutiny succeed, Reyes admitted that the document was unsigned. The document bore the name of the author only as "The New Filipino Heroes."

At about 7:10 p.m., the House committee on national defense adjourned its hearing. It will resume on Tuesday. The hearing, which started at 9:30 a.m., took several hours as all members of the House in attendance were given the chance to interpellate civilian, defense and military officials.

The committee decided to subpoena the AFP to compel it to allow rebel leaders particularly Trillanes to appear at its hearings. *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and AFP*

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Cops put on the spot

'Are you with us or against us?'

By Leila B. Salaverria

AS REPORTS of more unrest in the Armed Forces linger, junior police officers in Metro Manila have been asked to express their support for the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo and condemn the July 27 mutiny.

At the Western Police District, a note on the stationery of Director Pedro Bulaong that accompanies a manifesto of support for the government said, "Fax to all station chiefs for the signature of all junior officers and submit to CDDS (Chief District Directorial staff) NLT (not later than) 1200H 31 July."

Junior officers are those with ranks from Inspector to Senior Inspector.

The one-page manifesto is generally a condemnation of the takeover by renegade junior military officers of the Oakwood premier apartments.

The mutiny was deemed a "betrayal of our oath and duty to defend the republic and duly constituted authorities" and described as "politically motivated . . . aimed at destroying the present government."

Similar manifestos were distributed among junior police officers in the Northern, Central and Eastern Police Districts.

EPD director Chief Supt. Ronaldo Sacramento said the idea of circulating the manifesto was hatched in Camp Crame on Wednesday.

He said there was no need for non-officers to sign the document saying, "Once their officers sign it means they have signed it too."

At the NPD, district director Marcelino Franco said hundreds of policemen put their names in the two-page manifesto.

"We should show that we are for the government and for the people," he said.

Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro, CPD director, however, denied that it was a "loyalty check" but an expression of disapproval for the manner by which the military officers aired their sentiments about the government.

The military officers had accused Ms Macapagal and some government officials of corruption.

However, a police officer from the WPD scoffed at the manifesto.

The officer who asked that he be not named said that it must be up to the junior police officers to express their condemnation of the mutiny and support for the government.

He stressed that it should be on their own initiative and not be forced upon them.

Ranking officials placed under lifestyle microscope

By Christian V. Esguerra

GOLFING policemen, beware.

Besieged by allegations of widespread corruption, the Philippine National Police will place all of its men under the microscope in an ambitious effort to locate those with unexplained wealth.

"The campaign will cover any wealth that cannot be explained, including expensive shares in golf clubs," Director Ricardo de Leon, PNP spokesperson, yesterday told reporters.

De Leon noted that there could be officers frequenting golf courses even if their salaries and declared assets would make it impossible for them to afford the expensive membership.

But the "lifestyle check" of PNP personnel would not involve only this curious aspect, he explained.

In a memorandum he issued last Tuesday, PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. outlined the PNP's priorities in the wake of President Macapagal-Arroyo's complaint in her State of the Nation Address that the department reeked with cases of graft and corruption.

The priorities centered on issues of corruption, terrorism and organizational reforms.

Besides the lifestyle check, Ebdane ordered the confiscation of stolen vehicles believed being used by policemen.

He also called for an investigation into "pyramid scams" that had victimized a number of PNP officers.

In the memorandum, he ordered all concerned units to "determine the culpability of PNP officers and pursue the prosecution of cases to fast-track the recovery of invested funds from the savings of policemen."

Part of the campaign will be a renewed drive against policemen involved in the collection of "grease money" in offices and in the streets, according to De Leon.

As part of the solution, Ebdane called for dialogues between officials and their subordinates.

Family driver dies for car

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THE JOB that gave Angelito Maramag a living has led to his dying.

Maramag, 46, was gunned down yesterday morning by a group of six men who reportedly tried to take the car he was driving in Valenzuela City.

It was about 6:30 a.m. and Maramag was driving the Mitsubishi Space Gear of his employer along Industrial Road, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, when one of the suspects blocked his path.

Maramag of 16 A Industrial Road, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, was apparently driving the 17-year-old daughter of his employer to school.

Valenzuela police chief Jose Marcelo told the INQUIRER that the suspects ordered Maramag to get off the car. The suspects, some of whom were on board a Besta van with no plate, wanted to get the car.

But Maramag resisted and immediately drove away.

However, the suspects drove after him and caught up with Maramag along Industrial Road, where they fired several shots killing the driver.

Spooks spooked

THE "ARREST" of three members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in front of the office of Jinggoy Estrada yesterday afternoon bolstered the belief of San Juan mayor Joseph Victor 'JV" Ejercito that the Macapagal administration was out to get his family.

The three were S/Sgt. Antonio Cruzada, Sgt. Rafaelito Tafalla and T/Sgt Abet Cordova.

The three knocked at Jinggoy's office and introduced themselves as agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Alarmed, a caretaker called the police and the three were subsequently brought to the San Juan Police station.

They carried with them .45 caliber pistols service firearms when accosted.

"They can't show us papers why they should be here (in San Juan) . . . This is too much of a coincidence," Ejercito said. *Luige del Puerto*

Hollywood stars to 'teach' English in Marikina City

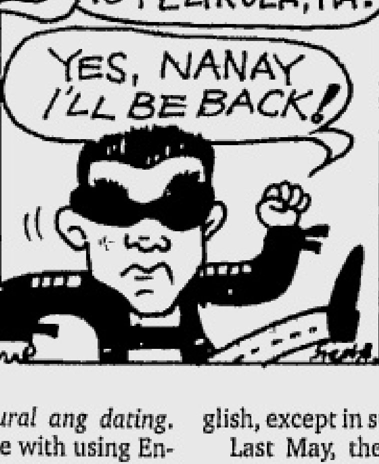
By Luige del Puerto

IF ONE of these days you meet someone who speaks one-liners like "Are you talking to me?" or "I'll be back," chances are he would be from Marikina City.

This novel possibility may arise from the plan of the city to tap Hollywood in its efforts to promote the use of English among its constituents.

Starting Aug. 16 to Dec. 13, on all Saturdays at 7 p.m., the city will provide free public viewing of English language movies in various public centers in the city.

Marikina hopes the movies will attract residents to the beauty of the English language and encourage those who are already speaking it to practice more.


TOTOY, DIRETSO UWI PAGKATAPOS NG PELIKULA, HA?
YES, NANAY I'LL BE BACK!

"*Gusto namin mapalagay sila sa paggamit ng Ingles, kaya mga pelikula ang gamit namin dahil natural ang dating.* (We want them to feel at ease with using English. That's why we use movies, where speaking it is natural," said information officer Mina Luz Camenia.

She said the movies could be added recreation to families.

"We hope it will give families a time to bond," Mayor Marides Lourdes Fernando said in a statement.

The city had a dry-run last month with the presentation of Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters with the Third Kind" and the James Bond film "Goldfinger."

The films scheduled this month include "Bridge on the River Kwai (Aug. 2 at the Malanday Gym)," and "Camelot (Aug. 9 at the UBB Gym)."

Camenia said they would be presenting "great American classics," which will include war films, musicals and classics.

This effort is part of the city's Speak English campaign, in accordance with its vision to become a "Little Singapore."

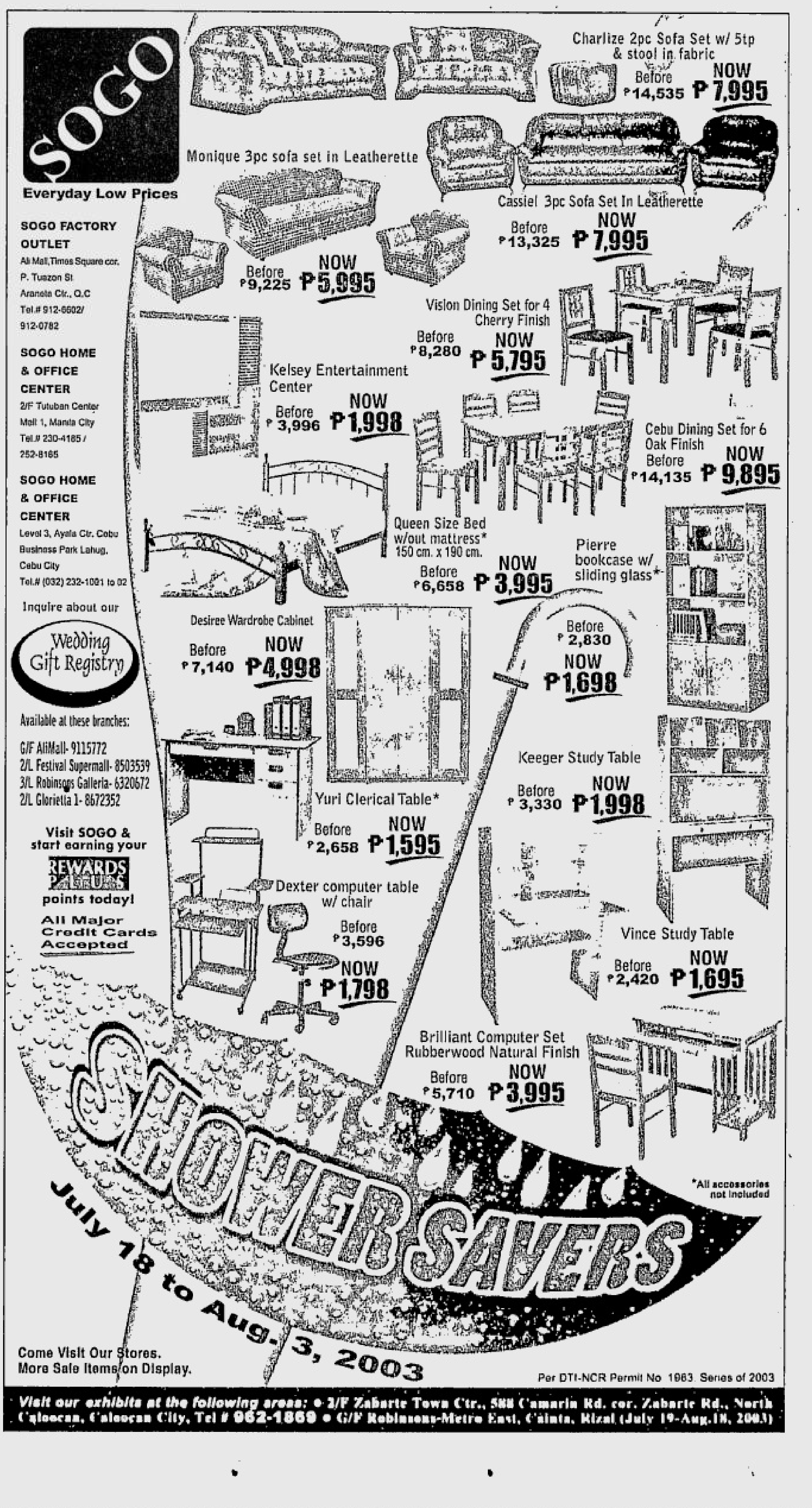
The ability of Filipinos to speak English more fluently than the peoples of other Asian countries has given them an edge in the field of skilled labor and in information and communication technology.

The campaign was started in city schools, where students are encouraged to speak English, except in subjects taught in Filipino.

Last May, the city conducted a series of seminars about the campaign. Among those who participated were barangay workers, representatives of the business sector and teachers.

Dr. Thomas J. Krall, cultural affairs officer of the public affairs section of the US Embassy, spoke about methods of teaching the language in one of these seminars

Krall has a Ph.D in Education from the University of Illinois.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After mutiny, robbery hits Glorietta

By Alcuin Papa

FOR THE second time in less than a week, violence gripped the Glorietta mall in Makati City when a suspected robber hit a moneychanger shop and took hostage a student.

The robbery came four days after military men mounted a short-lived rebellion, holing up at the posh Oakwood Premier in the Glorietta area.

Suspect Aries Patolot, 29, of Countryside Village, Pasig City, took out a .22 cal. Beretta handgun from his shoe and took about P4 million in foreign currencies from an employee of the Sanry's Moneychanger shop on the ground floor of the mall at around 11 a.m., police said.

He was about to make his getaway on board a taxicab when the police caught him, according to Supt. Ramon Salido of the city's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Police said Patolot hid his gun in his left shoe when he entered the mall, thwarting security men at the entrance. Once inside, he spotted moneychanger employee Teodorico Sabenorio, 20, of Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati, carrying a bag, Salido said.

Patolot then took out his gun and dragged the victim to the comfort room of Glorietta 4.

After taking the bag containing the cash, Patolot warned Sabenorio not to leave the comfort room until he had left.

But Sabenorio followed the suspect and immediately called the attention of security guards.

The guards chased the suspect who fled into a Burger King branch where he took hostage student Karen Pangilinan, 18, of Valley View Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal, Salido said.

As panicking shoppers ran for cover, Patolot dragged Pangilinan to the second floor of the mall near the National Bookstore branch before going down to the ground floor.

Still pulling the hostage, Patolot exited at the Hotel Drive where he tried to commandeer the taxi of Delfin Magno, 39.

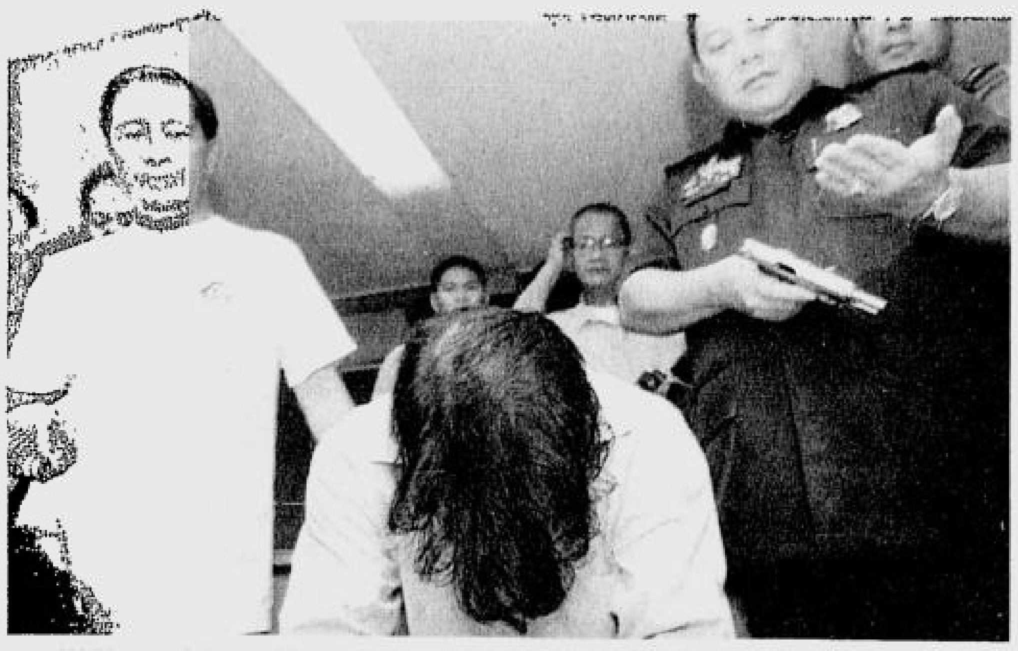
The suspect then let go of Pangilinan and tried to board the taxi when responding policemen arrived.

He gave up peacefully and turned over the cash when he saw he was surrounded, Salido said.

Patolot is now in the custody of the Makati Police.

Charges of robbery, illegal detention and illegal possession of firearms would be filed against the suspect, Salido said.

Patolot yesterday refused to comment on the charges.


MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay (left) looks on as robbery suspect Aries Patolot uses his thick, wavy hair to hide his face from reporters at the Makati police station. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Teener mugged over funky jewelry

A GROUP of young men came to admire a student's necklace and funky rings by punching and stabbing the victim.

The 15-year-old high school student not only lost some P9,000 in silver jewelry to the young suspects on Wednesday, he was also mauled and stabbed twice in the back by one of the suspects, Nelson Francisco, 19.

Police said that at about 4 p.m., the victim and his friends were in front of a drugstore on 10th Avenue, Caloocan, when 10 men approached them and grabbed his necklace and three silver rings.

When the student resisted, Francisco stabbed him with a ball pen. Bystanders who saw the incident rushed to help the victim and managed to capture Francisco, PO2 Neil Valenzuela said. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Manila police chief flaunts success in crime fighting

By Leila Salaverria

WESTERN Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday said that the Manila police has made inroads in crime fighting during his first year.

In his accomplishment report, Bulaong said the overall crime solution efficiency (CSE) from July 29, 2002—the day he assumed office—to last July 15 has gone up to 96.18 percent, compared to the 90.84 and 93.55 percent racked up over the same period in the last two years.

Bulaong also cited successful crackdowns on drug syndicates in Manila.

Among those arrested under Bulaong's watch were Lejun dela Cruz and Arnold Salazar, suspects in the ambush of sports official Go Teng Kok, the assassins of Manila councilor Chika Go, and the suspect in the killing of two Manila policemen, who is also a drug trafficker.

Bulaong also reported that 2,062 drug operations have been conducted, where 551 pushers and 3,449 users were caught. Among those arrested were three police officers. He added that 2,569 cases have been filed in court while P13.8 million in shabu and P5.3 million in marijuana were seized.

The CSE for both index and non-index crimes has improved during his watch, Bulaong said, despite a slight increase in the city's crime volume (3,138) compared to the volume over the same period last year (3,024).

METROBRIEFS

3 wanted suspects fall

CONTINUING anti-crime drive in Marikina netted three persons with standing warrants of arrest last month. Police identified them as Jose Claveria of Palma Street, Xavierville Subdivision, Quezon City; Luz Santiago Gotico of Paraluman Street, Parang, Marikina; and Reggie Centene of Pipino Street, Tumana District, Marikina. Claveria was arrested for reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property. A Marikina Trial Court had issued his arrest warrant. The San Mateo, Rizal municipal trial court issued the arrest warrant against Gotico, who is facing charges of estafa. Centene was arrested for robbery holdup. His warrant was issued by a Pasig Regional Trial Court. *Luige del Puerto*

Man sets self on fire

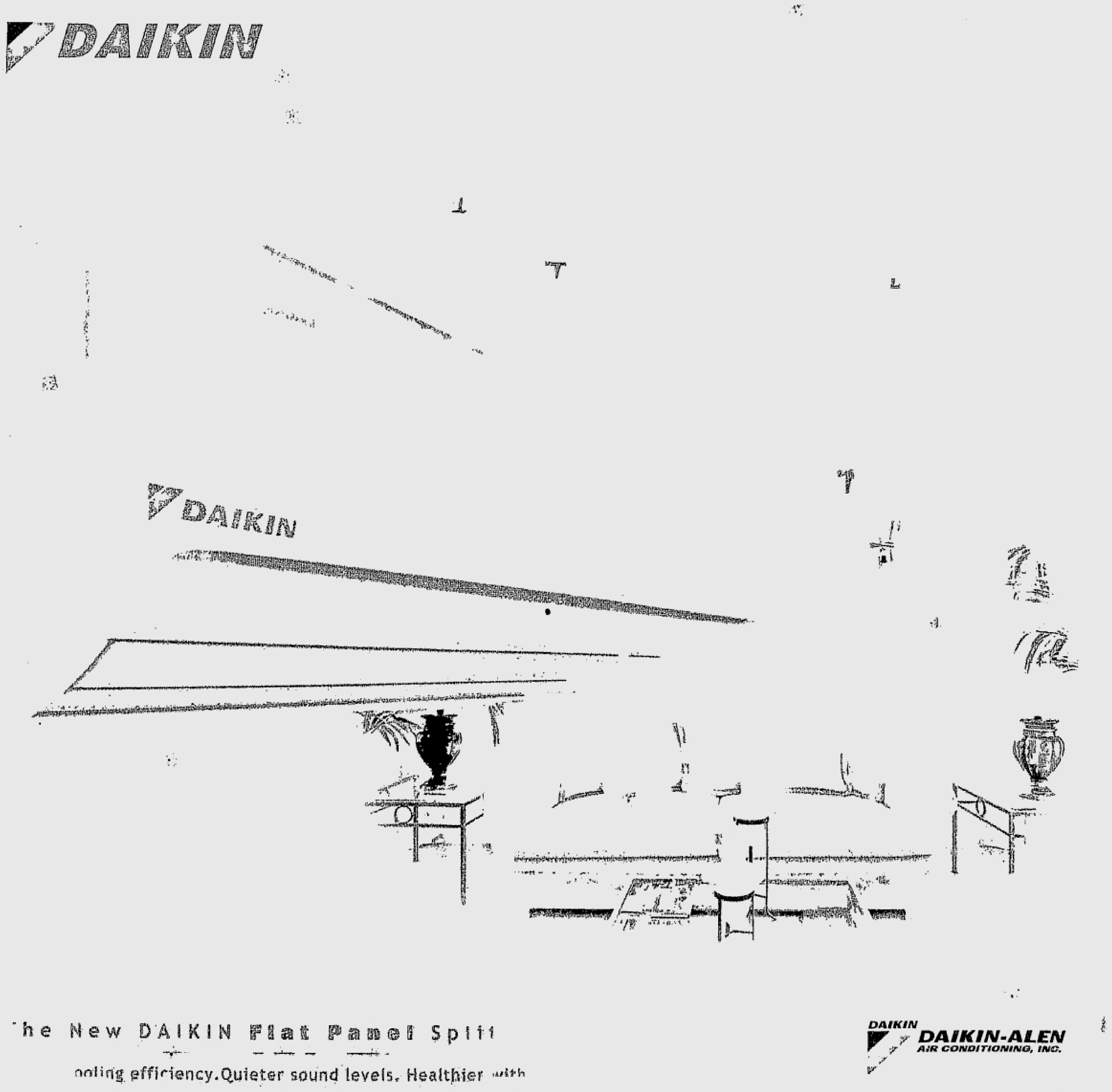
A MENTALLY handicapped young man set himself on fire yesterday morning inside his home in Marikina City, the city fire department said. Christopher Basco suffered third degree burns on his body, police said. He was rushed to a hospital and was being treated. Police said Basco opened the LPG tank and set himself on fire around 8:28 a.m. The fire engulfed other volatile parts of his house in Green Heights Subdivision. Firefighters responded fast and put out the fire in less than 10 minutes. *Luige del Puerto*

Convicted, then freed

THE PROCESS seems to have been reversed when a woman was released after the court found her guilty of a crime. Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Amalia Andrade sentenced Ma. Ann Velasco to one year imprisonment for malicious mischief. The court ordered her release last Monday after the court found out she had actually overstayed in jail by one month. Velasco has been in the Manila City Jail since June 4 last year, a day after she was caught stealing a Sanyo compact disc player and P7,000 from her neighbor, Melvin Ormoc, on June 3, 2002. Court stenographer Mabel Maglasang said that Velasco, who was jobless, may have been too poor to post bail for her crime. *Tarra Quismundo*

Fund-raising drive

THE UP MBA Alumni Society announces its annual fund-raising drive for the UP MBA Professional Chairs. All UP MBA Alumni are invited to jam with the "Spirit of '67 at the Officers Club, Fort Bonifacio, Makati on Aug. 1. For further information please call the Secretariat at 928-95-72.



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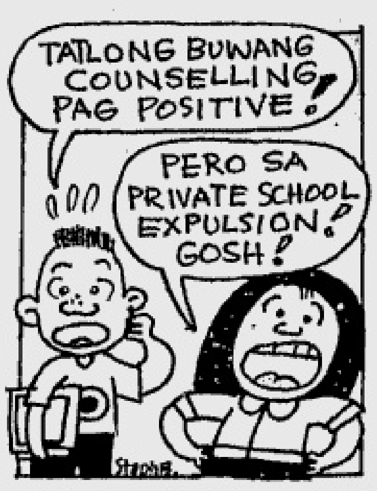
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PERO SA PRIVATE SCHOOL EXPULSION! GOSH!

DOH: Students on drugs won't be dropped

By Dona Pazzibugan

STUDENTS who test positive in the random drug check would not be kicked out, but would be forced to seek counseling.

Government teams would start going to selected high schools, colleges and universities in September to conduct the mandatory testing.

According to guidelines which the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) approved, students who are found positive for drugs would undergo three-month "observation and counseling" sessions.

They would receive counseling from a Department of Health-accredited doctor and the school-appointed drug counselor.

The guidelines state that "first time positive confirmatory drug test result shall not be a ground for expulsion or any disciplinary action."

For public high schools and colleges, the student would be allowed to reenrol if he would respond well to counseling.

But if the student shows no sign of improvement after counseling and fails the drug test a second time, he would be put into a rehabilitation center.

If parents refuse to act, they can be jailed.

The guidelines however allow private schools to impose stiff sanctions on students who are found to be "drug dependents."

Thelma Santos, head of the Department of Education's health and nutrition division, said private schools can even expel such students if they want to.

She said the DepEd and the Commission on Higher Education have "limited regulatory powers" over private schools.

School officials and students who refuse to undergo testing may be jailed for 6 months up to 4 years.

But a student's refusal would not automatically "give rise to a presumption of drug use or dependency," according to the guidelines.

Random drug testing for students is mandated under the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The DDB however has so far only drawn up guidelines for students. Testing would be done in schools, which would be randomly selected.

Students who would undergo testing would be selected on the day of testing itself.

Manila Water hits urban poor target ahead of time

THE MANILA Water Company has connected 115,000 more urban poor people to clean, affordable water supply in the first six months of 2003, way ahead of the Ayala-led concessionaire's target of 100,000 additional people to be served by the end of the year.

According to Manila Water President Antonio T. Aquino, the private utility has successfully managed the water supply and sewerage/sanitation services in the East Zone of Metro Manila, where the population has been growing at an alarming rate.

As a result of this growth, the provision of basic services are being spread too thin among the metropolis' more than 11 million inhabitants.

The "Tubig Para Sa Barangay (TPSB)" program has provided, as of June this year, 19,285 more households or 115,700 people, with potable water, in Quezon City, Marikina, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, San Andres and Sta. Ana in Manila, as well as in Cainta, Taytay and Rizal.

About 449,170 people living in almost 100 urban poor communities in the East Zone have been legally connected to affordable and clean water supply since 1998—the year the TPSB program was launched in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal to the private sector to help in poverty alleviation.

"We achieved a lot of success in the TPSB program because our people work closely with the various communities where we are present," Aquino explained.

"You've got to get the community and their leaders to buy into your strategy," Aquino pointed out. "At the end of the day, they will be the ones who will guard the new pipes on a 24-hour basis, not us."

Manila Water officials expect that by the end of December 2003, they will be providing services to 27,000 more households or 160,000 more people.

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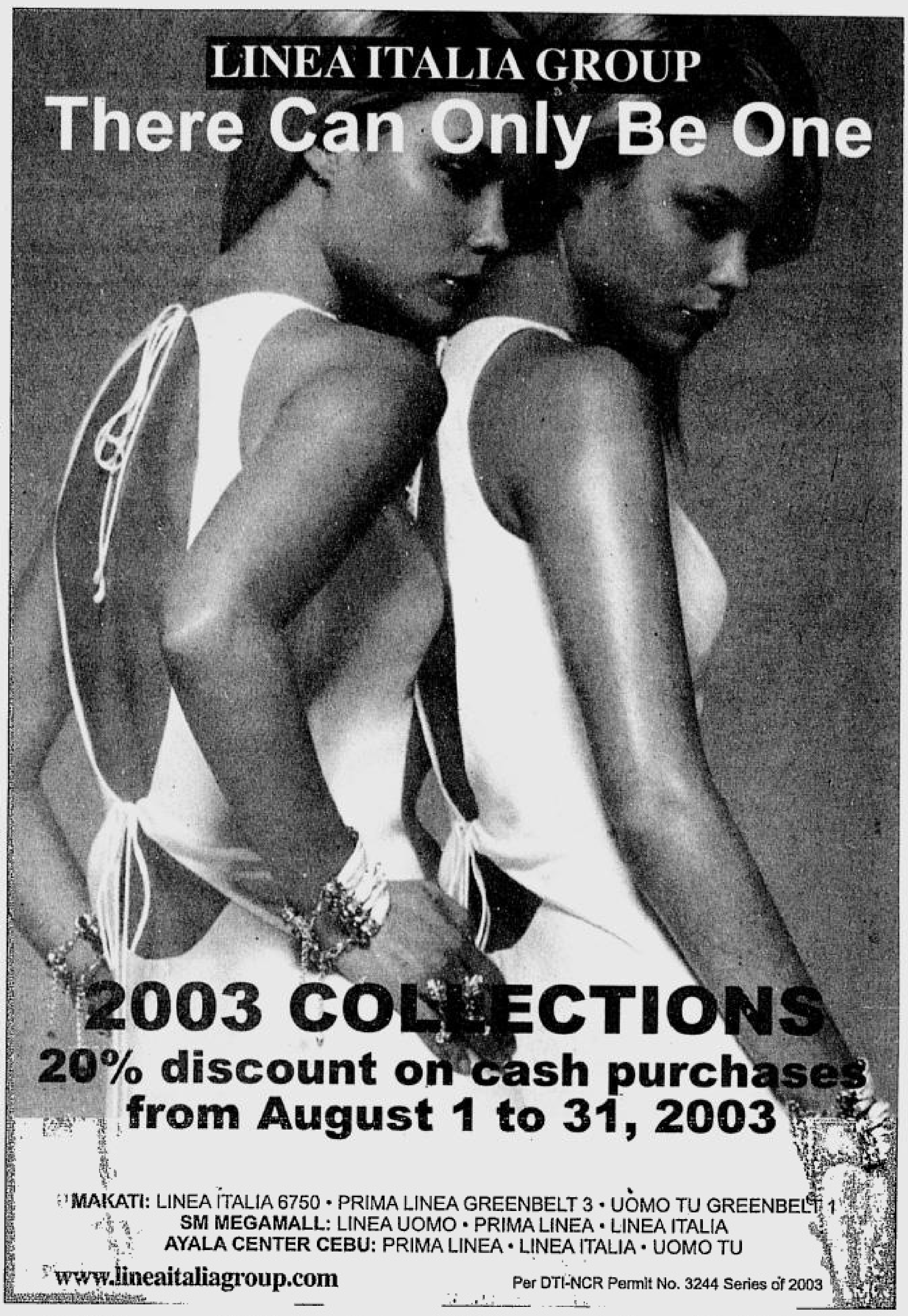
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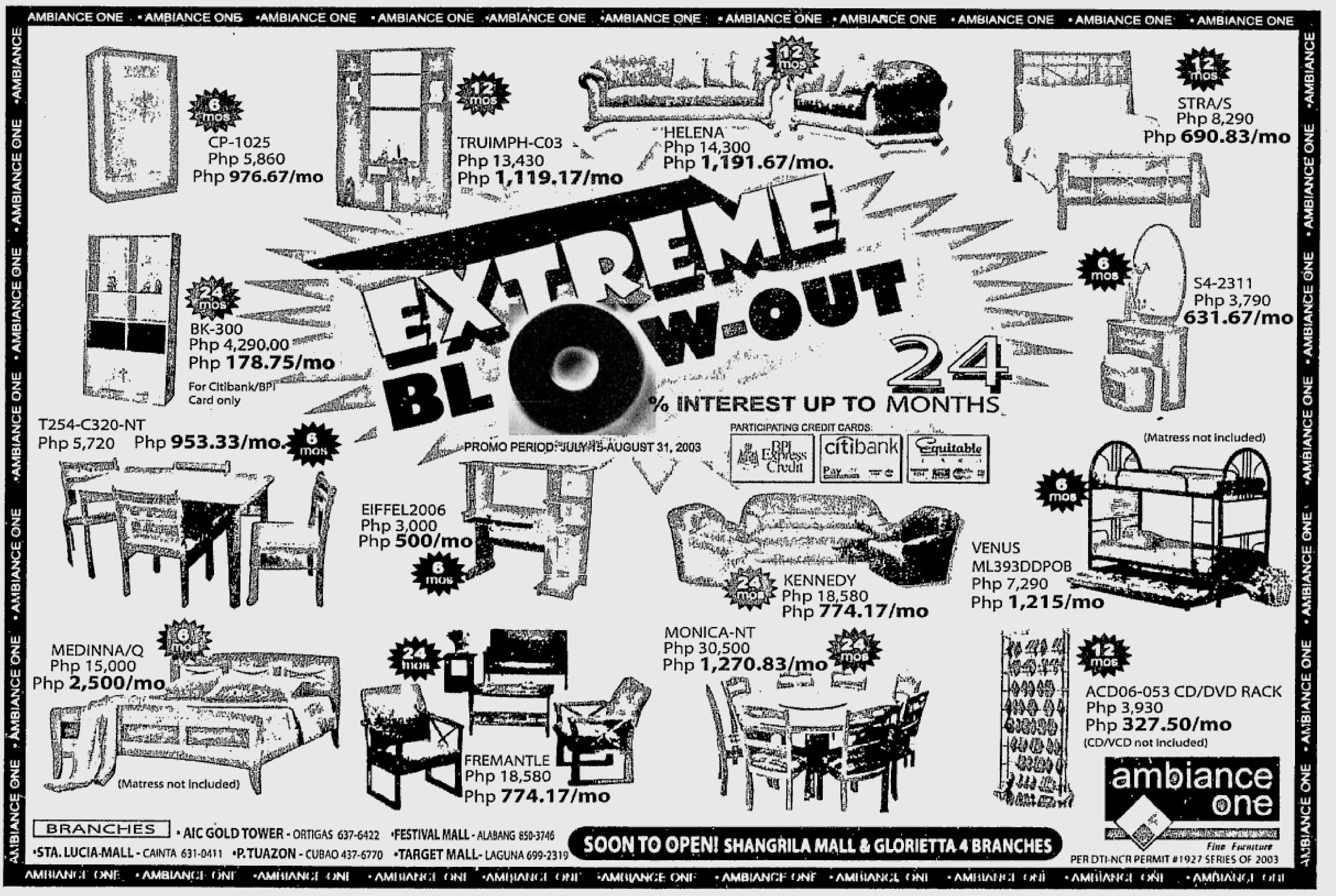
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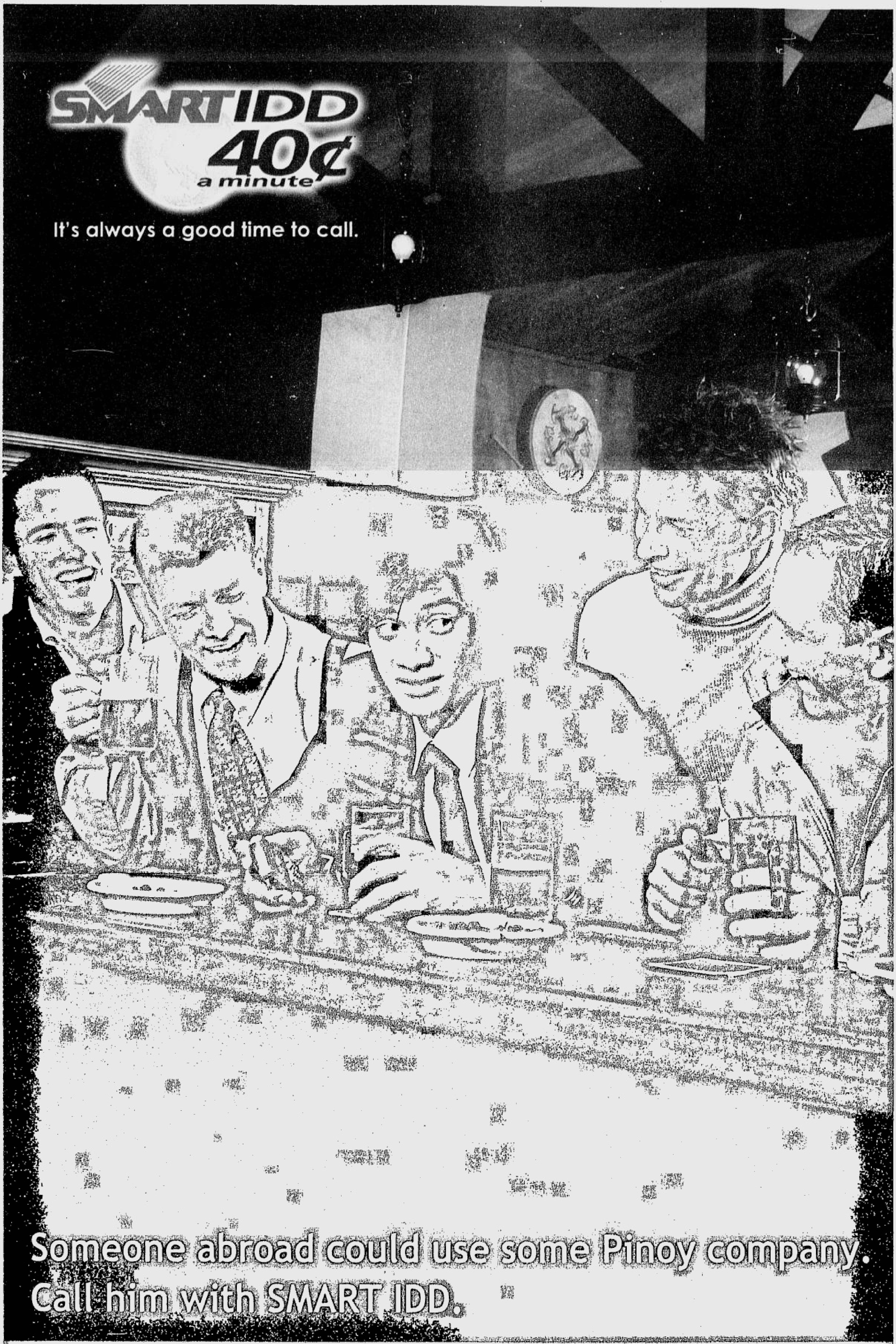
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HOW MANY, WHAT COLOR?

SEAG Task Force wants to know

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NOW that they're going to Vietnam, they have to back up their selection as Southeast Asian Games bets with medals—preferably gold.

And how many and what color the medals will be the SEA Games Task Force intends to find out starting next week when it conducts meetings with officials of 28 national sports associations and their respective athletes who made it to the 377-member RP team roster approved by the Philippine Olympic Committee the other day.

SEA Games Task Force chief Steve Hontiveros said he would ask the NSA representatives and their athletes to make a fearless forecast of how many gold medals they can win in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

"They should give the most accurate predictions," said Hontiveros. "After all, they don't only know their own strengths but they are also aware of the opposition they will be facing."

The Philippine Sports Commission said it expects to win 40-60 gold medals in December, with PSC chair Eric Buhain citing medal-rich track and field and swimming as capable of winning at least 16 golds between them.

POC secretary general Romy Ribano said asking the NSAs to predict their possible medal output would also motivate them further lest they be questioned later for failing to meet expectations.

"I'm sure that they know who the strongest bets are in their respective slots," said Ribano, adding that "the NSAs can't use the lack of foreign exposure as an excuse for not playing well."

Some officials said the new POC stand is aimed at holding the NSAs responsible for their respective showings in Vietnam, noting they are in total control of their athletes' training and preparation.

It will be a very hectic week for the NSAs since they will be involved in one-on-one meetings with PSC to review their budgets after the recent reduction of funding support from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Ribano said the fund cut would affect the operations, training of athletes and other functions of NSAs.

"If they (PSC) have a problem (about money), then we (NSAs) also have a problem," said Ribano.

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Miranda layup lifts Tams past Archers

Games Tomorrow (*Loyola Gym*)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs NU (srs)
4 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (srs)

By Dennis U. Eroa

PLAYMAKER Dennis Miranda made the shot that mattered most as Far Eastern came back from 16 points down to edge La Salle, 74-72, yesterday and seize the solo leadership in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

Overshadowed by the spirited Tyrone Tang most of the way, the 5-foot-11 Miranda struck with a daring layup as the Tamaraws shattered the game's last deadlock at 72, 16.9 seconds remaining.

La Salle, which tasted its first defeat in four outings, had one final chance to salvage the thriller but Mac Cardona's three-point shot rimmed out as the Tamaraws' bench exploded in delight.

"La Salle dominated us early because my players were afraid of its transition defense. We've learned so much from this win, but our formula was to stay positive," said FEU mentor Koy Banal.

The Tamaraws, who regained top spot with a 4-1 record, trailed by 30-46 but brought the lead down to 51-59 at the end of the third quarter behind Arwind Santos, who led all scorers with 26 points.

Earlier, defending champion Ateneo kept its relentless drive with a convincing 70-62 win over skidding Adamson.

It was the Eagles' third straight triumph after losing their first two games to University of the East and FEU.

The Falcons dropped to 1-3.

"Little by little, we're getting there. I'm satisfied with what I'm getting from my rookies but there is a need to raise the level of their games," said Ateneo coach Joel Banal.

Starters Lewis Tenorio, Wesley Gonzales and Larry Fonacier exploded in double figures but it was Rich Alvarez who made the biggest impact by dominating Adamson's big men.

The Archers' trapping defense gave La Salle a 36-24 lead at the half before Santos and Jay Sierra came alive to move the Tamaraws within 61-63.

All seemed lost for the Tamaraws as the Archers stormed ahead again, 69-61, on Tang's free throws, but Miranda, Santos and Jones joined hands as FEU regained the lead at 72-71 with 43 ticks remaining.

Rookie Jerwin Gaco tied the game with a charity split before Miranda came up with the game-winning layup.

The 6-foot-4 Alvarez, who is joining the pro ranks next season, snared 13 of Ateneo's 44 rebounds as he fueled the Eagles' transition game.

Six-foot-five rookie Ford Arao and Chris Tiu also did not disappoint with their heady plays.

The lone shining star for Adamson was Mark Abadia, who scattered seven of his game-high 20 points in the fourth period as the Falcons threatened at 55-60, 5:07 remaining.

Tenorio, who topscored with 18 points, capped an 8-2 run with a booming three-point shot as Ateneo iced the game, 68-57, two minutes left.

In the junior division, the Eaglets made it a double celebration by beating the Adamson Baby Falcons, 80-74.

Ken Barracoso, Jose Reyes and Pablo Dizon finished in double figures as the Eaglets erased a 15-point deficit in the third quarter, 50-65, and went on to tie the Baby Falcons at 2-1.

William Johnston led the Baby Falcons with 24, but overconfidence took its toll on the San Marcelino-based youngsters, who scored just nine while giving up 30 points to the Eaglets in the fourth quarter.

Scores:

First Game (jrs)

ATENEO 80—Barracoso 25, Reyes J 22, Dizon 13, Intal 6, Tingzon 5, Medina 5, Reyes 2, Encarnacion2, Tuazon 0, Nadal 0.

ADAMSON 74—Johnston 24, Bautista 12, Edano 10, Amparado 8, Canuday 7, Pandaan, 6, Ballia 3, Racho 2, Espina 2.

Second Game (srs)

ATENEO 70—Tenorio 18, Fonacier 17, Gonzales 12, Bugia 7, Alvarez 5, Del Rosario 5, Kramer 2, Arao 2, Intal 2, Tiu 0, Membrere 0.

ADAMSON 62—Abadia 20, Kong 8, Bono 6, Cabahug 6, Alonzo 6, Tagupa 5, Tajonera 4, Poloyapoy 4, Tiongco 3, Hate 0, Catabay 0.

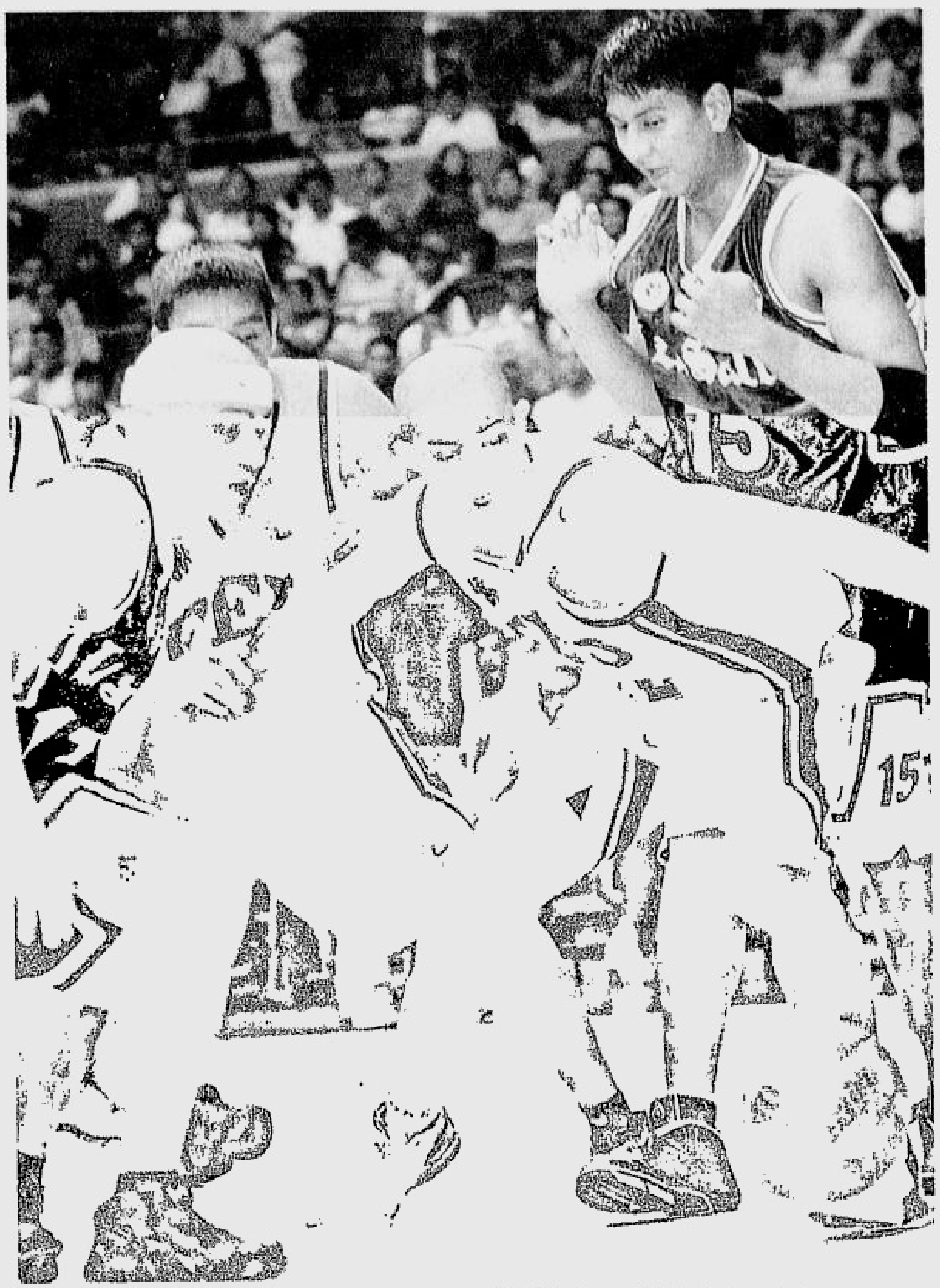
Quarters: 27-20, 41-33, 50-43, 70-62

Third Game (srs)

FEU 74—Santos 26, Miranda 13, Jones 10, Sierra 7, Isip 6, Sinco 6, Rizada 4, Razon 2, Zablan 0, Yabut 0, Guttierez 0, Catli 0.

LA SALLE 72—Cardona 16, Yeo 11, Benitez 10, Casio 9, Ramos 8, Tang 7, Gaco 5, Gatchalian 2, Cabatu 2, Aquino 2, Gavino 0.

Quarterscores: 19-18, 24-36, 51-59, 74-72.


LA SALLE'S Mark Cardona (left) and Far Eastern's Mark Isip (right) scramble for the loose ball. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

FEU, UE, Adamson tossers ahead in both divisions

FAR EASTERN continued its giant-killing ways Wednesday, this time toppling men's defending champion University of Santo Tomas in the 66th UAAP volleyball tournament at the University of the Philippines gym in Diliman.

FEU needed five sets and 87 minutes before scoring its second consecutive win for the top spot in the men's division, 25-21, 22-25, 22-25, 25-21, 15-13.

It was the second loss for the Tigers, who yielded to the UP Maroons on opening day the other week.

Adamson and UE also booked their second consecutive victories to keep pace with FEU. Adamson defeated Ateneo, 25-18, 25-17, 25-23, while UE needed an hour and three minutes to dispose of National University, 31-29, 20-25, 25-22, 25-16.

De La Salle, last season's losing finalist, got back on track by defeating UP, 25-19, 24-26, 25-21, 25-19.

UE, FEU and Adamson also went 2-0 in the women's contest.

The UE Redskirts downed NU, 24-14, 25-13, 25-10; FEU beat UP, 25-19, 23-25, 25-15, 25-12; and Adamson brought down Ateneo, 19-25, 12-25, 25-18, 26-24, 15-13.

UST recovered from its opening-day loss and stopped De La Salle, 21-25,25-23,25-21,25-16, in the other women's game.

Last Sunday's matches which were canceled because of the Makati putsch, meanwhile, have been rescheduled for Aug. 19, or after the first round, also at the UP gym. The matches pit UP against NU, De La Salle against UE, FEU against Ateneo and UST against Adamson in the men's and UP against NU, De La Salle against Adamson, UST against Ateneo and FEU against UE in the women's side.

Fed golf: Valley upsets Forest Hills

STANDINGS
Group I: 13 Eastridge, 10 Manila Golf, 7 Southwoods, 4 Highlands, 3 Mimosa
Group II: 15 Forest Hills, 15 Alabang, 10 Valley, 6 Orchard, 5 John Hay, 5 Wack Wack
Group III: 11 Royal Northwoods, 11 Sherwood Hills, 10 Riviera, 10 Canlubang, 9 Mt. Malarayat, 3 Sta. Elena

VALLEY, already out of it, pulled off a shocking 3-1 conquest of Forest Hills to send the race for the two automatic semifinal berths into a climactic finish in the Federation Golf League matches recently in various venues.

Kevin Lachica and Wax Tolentino (scramble), Enrique Olives-Bong de Leon (bestball) and Zaldy Villa-Honor Mendoza (high-low) hacked out the needed points for Valley that gave Forest Hills its only loss so far in the eliminations.

Valley's win—its fifth against four losses—couldn't have come at a more crucial time for three other teams (Eastridge, Alabang and Manila Golf) which are now in a position to challenge Forest Hills for the two outright seats in the Final Four.

Alabang quickly recovered from a 1-3 loss to also-ran Wack Wack with a 4-0 massacre of visiting John Hay, joining Forest Hills on top in Group II at 15 points. Already assured of quarterfinal seats, Alabang and Forest Hills will face off in their last eliminations game with the winner definitely gaining headway in the semis race.

It will be all up to Eastridge and defending champion Manila Golf, the top two teams in Group I which had to postpone their match due to last Sunday's foiled military rebellion, to grab the opportunity.

After its home outing with Eastridge, Manila Golf still has an away match with Highlands which gives the Forbes Park squad a big chance of going straight to the semis.

The two teams with the best winning ratios after the eliminations will clinch outright semis seats and the current standings show Eastridge, with five wins, a draw and a loss, leading the way followed by Alabang, Manila Golf and Forest Hills.

The race for the two Group III slots, meanwhile, grew even tighter after Sherwood Hills and Mt. Malarayat battled to a 2-2 standoff.

THE KING IS BACK: International Boxing Federation superbantamweight titleholder Manny Pacquiao shows off the championship belt on his arrival yesterday from California. Pacquiao successfully defended his crown with a third round technical knockout of Mexican challenger Emmanuel Lucero. ROGER MARGALLO

Lewis wants rematch in December

LONDON—World heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is ready to make December's defense of his title against Ukraine's Vitali Klitschko his last fight.

Lewis, who defeated Klitschko on June 21 in Los Angeles when the fight was stopped at the end of the sixth round, is due to face the 32-year-old again on December 6 in Las Vegas.

But asked by the BBC if he will retire should the bout go ahead, Lewis said: "Yeah I think so. I would have nothing left to prove. I'm just basically boxing for the fun of it."

Despite the doubts, the 37-year-old British fighter said he will not take a firm decision on his future until negotiations with Klitschko are concluded.

"Other people are hyped up about the Klitschko fight and they want to see another one," Lewis said.

"I enjoyed the first one. Right now we are just working out the logistics and talking to his manager and (broadcasters) HBO to see what we can work out. AFP

ASUNCION AP

Asuncion bows out of world badminton

FILIPINO shuttler Kennevic Asuncion lost to power-hitting South Korean Lee Hyun-il, 15-7,15-4, Wednesday and bowed out of the World Badminton Championships in Birmingham, England.

The defeat to the eighth-seeded Korean came a day after Asuncion, who together with sister Kennie are the only Filipino campaigners in the annual event, stunned the gallery by besting local hope Andrew Smith, 17-14, 15-8, in the round of 64.

Asuncion was simply no match to the cat-quick Korean who scored from all corners of the court with impunity.

The mixed doubles pair of Kennevic and Kennie were already eliminated Tuesday, bowing to the favored Indonesian tandem of Anggun and Eny in straight sets.

Talk 'N Text leads 6-footers league

TALK 'N TEXT nipped John O, 72-71, to seize the lead in the 2nd Bert Lina Cup Six Footers basketball league at the Visayas Glass Gym in Guadalupe.

The University of San Jose-Recoletos-bannered TNT put the cuffs on Jun-Jun Lasala, prompting the University of the Visayas-laden John O to bank on Jayford Rodriguez, who topscored with 30 points.

Rodriguez, the Cebu Athletic Foundation Rookie of the Year however, missed what could have been the game-winning free throws for John O after it came to within a point at 70-71 on a three-pointer by Reynante Lapiz in the final 26 seconds.

Lasala then lost control of the ball to a pesky TNT defender with Jerry Carilla pegging the final count with a free throw with five seconds left.

Meanwhile, Samsung banked on the heroics of Cassidy Shun to arrest a two-game losing spell with a 69-61 win over winless Timex in this tournament confined to players 18 years and under and are 6 feet or taller.

After the Cebu leg, the event initiated by Air21 chairperson Bert Lina plans to move to Mindanao. The champions and runners-up of each of the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao legs will then clash in a Grand Finals.

Carter beefs up Spurs backcourt

CARTER

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—France's Tony Parker will have some bench support in the backcourt for the National Basketball Association San Antonio Spurs, who signed a pair of backup guards here Wednesday.

The Spurs signed free agent point guards Anthony Carter and Devin Brown, who will add depth to a team that tried in vain to land New Jersey star Jason Kidd and lost reserve guard Speedy Claxton to the Golden State Warriors.

Carter, 28, spent his first four seasons with the Miami Heat, averaging 5.5 points and 4.3 assists a game. Last season, he averaged 4.1 points and 4.1 assists in 49 appearances.

"This is a fresh start for me and a great honor to play for the world champions," Carter said.

Brown averaged 1.7 points in seven games with the Spurs last season. *AFP*

HEWITT returns a forehand to Michael Joyce in the second round of the 2003 Mercedes-Benz Cup. REUTERS

Hewitt powers on

Roddick, Paradorn reach 3rd round

LOS ANGELES—Former world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt blasted 14 aces, including five straight to start his serving games, beating American Michael Joyce 6-3, 6-0 on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the $380,000 Los Angeles ATP event.

The 22-year-old Australian was playing for the second straight day against a journeyman American in his first tournament since losing in the opening round at Wimbledon.

"I felt I didn't serve that great yesterday so I came out here and tried to work on it," said Hewitt. "It is a heck of a lot easier to take control when you are serving aces." Hewitt suffered a shocking early exit at this year's Wimbledon, losing to Croatian qualifier Ivo Karlovic.

Hewitt, the 2002 Wimbledon winner, had one minor letdown in Wednesday's one-hour, 11-minute match when he lost his serve to go 3-3 in the first set.

"I took my foot off the pedal at stages but I felt I was in control of the match," he said.

In Washington, Thailand's third-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan and American second seed Andy Roddick answered challenges from low-ranked rivals here Wednesday to reach the third round of the ATP Washington Classic.

Paradorn outlasted 102nd-ranked Frenchman Cyril Saulnier 6-4, 6-7 (6/8), 6-1 in a second-round match while Roddick ousted 205th-rated compatriot Bob Bryan 7-6 (7/5), 6-4 to book a showdown with Britain's Greg Rusedski.

Roddick, seeking his fourth title in six events, rose to 21-2 since mid-May and 16-1 since ditching Frenchman Tarik Benhabiles for new coach Brad Gilbert. He expects a test from Rusedski, whom he beat at Queen's and Wimbledon.

"I'm going to have to play my returns well and come in when I can," Roddick said. "He's going to be dictating on his serve and I hopefully will be able to do the same on mine." *AFP*

SPORTS noodle

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Brazilian soccer legend Pele is known as the:
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☐ Black Magic

3 > 7 Pts.
Which wild-driving, wild-drinking and wild-gambling golfer is known as, what else, 'The Wild Thing?'
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☐ Curtis Strange

4 > 10 Pts.
At the 1972 Olympic Games, diminutive Russian gymnast Olga Korbut became the darling of the crowd who gave her the nickname 'The _______ of Munich.'
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☐ Munchkin
☐ Muse

5 > 15 Pts.
Because of his shot-blocking and rebounding prowess, which NBA center was dubbed 'The Human Eraser?'
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☐ Elmore Smith
☐ Marvin Webster
☐ Nate Thurmond

6 > 25 Pts.
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☐ Muhammad Ali (boxing)
☐ Jess Owens (athletics)
☐ George Wagner (wrestling)
☐ Wayne Gretzky (ice hockey)

7 > 30 Pts.
'Flash' Report: The original and complete nom de guerre of Filipino boxing icon Gabriel Elorde was "K. R. S. Flash." What did "K. R. S." mean?

ANSWERS/ A30

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. (r); ESPN—It's a clash of titans as Django Bustamante battles Earl "the Pearl" Strickland.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Mobil 1 German Grand Prix Qualifying; 7:55 p.m.; Star Sports—The F1 circuit continues as the Schumacher, Montoya, Barrichello and company battle for pole position.

GOLF: PGA Buick Open; 5:30 p.m., 10 p.m. and tomorrow at 4 a.m. (r); Star Sports—Catch first and second round action from the greens and fairways in Michigan.

BASEBALL: MLB—Yankees vs Angels; 10 a.m. (r-4 p.m.); ESPN—AL powers New York and Anaheim tangle as the race for the pennant gets tougher.

TENNIS: RCA Championships; 8:30 a.m. (r); Star Sports—The top ATP players serve and smash their way to the Finals of this tournament held in Indianapolis.

BASKETBALL: Sparks vs Monarchs; 2 p.m.; ESPN—LA and Sacramento renew their rivalry in the WNBA.

NBA Inside Stuff; 9 p.m.; Star Sports—Get all the NBA and WNBA information and highlights you need in this 30-minute show.

BADMINTON: World Badminton Championships; 8:30 p.m., ESPN—The world's best in the fastest racket sport gather in England as quarterfinal action begins.

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UAAP players not robotics

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

JOSE Capistrano Jr. of the UAAP did the right thing. By turning down the request of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala to allow four UAAP players to play in the ongoing PBA Invitational, Capistrano was in effect actually serving national interest. His decisive no for an answer effectively torpedoed unfounded charges of unpatriotic stance against UAAP players absent in the PBA tournament.

Eala and his ilk must be reminded that as supposed leaders of the land, they should be the first to protect our youth from unscrupulous people out to manipulate them for their own selfish ends.

College players are our country's future. To unnecessarily expose them to a rigid schedule could lead to disastrous results. What could be more unpatriotic than that?

There is no doubt that Rich Alvarez and Wesley Gonzales of Ateneo, and James Yap and Paul Artadi of UE are valuable players for the national team competing in the PBA Invitational. They can win games, why not?

However, the four are presently playing in the UAAP championship, the nation's premier collegiate basketball tournament. The schédule there requires that all four of them play twice a week and practice five days a week. On top of that are classes that they need to attend to, not to mention quizzes and examinations that come their way from time to time.

We are not talking here of robotics are we?

Here are four students not only gifted with basketball skills but also endowed with brains, whose ultimate ambition, I believe, is to earn a college degree. To them, if not most of them anyway, basketball is but a tool toward securing a better future. Their motto and their parents' motto, too: Education first, basketball second.

Said Capistrano: "Our players have at least two games a week and practice daily. They cannot fit in a practice with the RP Team and play in the PBA Invitational. In instances where players play continuously or with little rest, there is a high risk of injury. And lastly, UAAP players are students and they need to attend classes and do their homework as well."

It's bulls-eye for Capistrano as far as that line ". . . high risk of injury" is concerned.

One can never tell what's going to happen when a player is overexposed. If machines can conk out, what more with mere mortals like our players, like us? There is the so-called metal fatigue as well as mental fatigue. Both can be deadly.

Had Capistrano bowed to the crooked wishes of Eala, he'd be crucified the minute one of the four got injured. Or got kicked out of school for low grades. Too many tournaments, if not games, can ruin a student's studies. Serving one master is hard enough. What more with two, three?

The trouble with some leagues, including the Basketball Association of the Philippines for that matter, is that they seem to lack the elementary courtesy of informing their allies of forthcoming events on time, let alone anticipate events of import.

The UAAP, and for that matter even the NCAA, is no pushover; they are not inter-color leagues that just sprouted out of nowhere.

The UAAP itself has become an institution that is even older and therefore more prestigious than the PBA. To just take the UAAP for granted is an insult to the intelligence of both its founding fathers and present officialdom.

If I were Eala, I'd immediately draft a letter of apology to the UAAP family, furnishing a copy to each of the four players.

By doing so, he might yet stand taller than his Lilliputian mind.

***

FASTBREAK. Len Gregorio says her boss, Bob Sobrepena, deserves a pat on the back. "He has pursued with so much vigor the world-class tennis program of the Fil-Estate Sports Foundation," says Len of Bob, Foundation chair. "Because of that, we have already produced great potentials like Michael Basco (15), Lawrence Magaway (16) and Miguel Narvaez (15), to name only a few." Tennis director Manny Tecson is also proud of having as his scholar Joseph Victorino, already the winner of the PCA and Philta Men's Open titles to become, at 19, the nation's No. 1. Tecson's program has also catapulted Japanese Ryoko Fuda to No. 7 in the world after Fuda recently won the World Super Juniors crown. Len, the Fil-Estate's VP for operations, can be reached at 6382249.

Three referees hale PBA to court over a

THREE former Philippine Basketball Association referees have filed a case of unfair labor practice against the pro league for allegedly terminating their services without due process.

Former PBA refs Efren Garferio, Alexander Tangonan and Meynard Ballecer, whose contracts were not renewed in February, sought back wages and moral damages in their complaint filed with the National Labor Relations Commission.

In the complaint sheet obtained by the INQUIRER, the three referees claimed they were terminated after the PBA deemed them unfit to officiate the games.

They also accused the PBA of disregarding their security of tenure which they claimed they are entitled to after serving the league for a number of years.

Tangonan served as referee for 13 years, Garferio nine and Ballecer seven.

The PBA, however, said that the case will not prosper since the complainants were not regular employees of the league.

"By the very nature of their services and the manner of payment of their retainer fees, complainants are not employees of the PBA, hence, are not entitled to the reliefs prayed for," said the PBA in a position paper.

It added that since the referees were considered as independent contractors, the PBA has the right not to renew their contracts at the end of every PBA season.

In their complaint, Garferio and company said they were humiliated by PBA Commissioner Noli Eala by announcing their dismissal in front of all the referees training for the next PBA season in early February.

The three referees were terminated

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Phone Pals, sans Banal, get going against Koreans

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Red Bull	1	0
FedEx	1	0
Yonsei	0	1
Novi Sad	0	1
Talk N Text	x	x
Group B		
San Miguel	1	0
Alaska	1	0
RP Team	0	1
Jilin Yi Qi	0	1
Coca-Cola	x	x

GAMES TODAY (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs San Miguel Beer
7:30 p.m.—Yonsei U vs Talk N Text

HOW IS All-Filipino Cup titlist Talk N Text without its magic charm—coach Joel Banal.

The Phone Pals will try to show they're just as strong under interim coach Ariel Vanguardia when they debut against the tough Yonsei University squad from South Korea in the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Koreans dropped their opening game against Red Bull Barako but not after putting up a strong stand that impressed many coaches, including Vanguardia.

"They're intimidating," said Vanguardia, who is temporarily taking over the head coaching chores from Joel Banal, who went back to the defending UAAP champions Ateneo Eagles after guiding the Phone Pals to their first ever PBA championship almost three weeks ago.

"We prepared something for them but I hope we can get it going against the Koreans' fastbreak plays and tiring ball movements," added Vanguardia.

The Phone Pals, who beat the Coca-Cola Tigers for the All-Filipino plum, collide with the Koreans at 7:30 p.m.

San Miguel Beer shoots for a second straight victory when it goes up against sister squad Coca-Cola earlier at 5:30.

The Beermen toyed with the Cebuana Lhuillier-RP Team, 95-55, in their opening clash Sunday.

Vanguardia hopes Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag, Patrick Fran, Bong Ravena, Vic Pablo, Mark Telan, Felix Belano, Harvey Carey and Jojo Manalo could flash their old fire after their exhausting championship run.

Yonsei's Goo Jun Jung, Hee Jong Yang, Ik Baek Ju, Tae Choi Seung and Hyup Lee Jung will be the men to watch for the Phone Pals.

The Koreans proved more than a match for Red Bull Barako until veteran Nelson Asaytono took over and boosted the Thunder to a 106-96 victory on Sunday.

June Navarro

ALI Peek pulls off a block with EJ Feihl forming a secor
97-82, Wednesday.

Reclusive Kim's unknown passion

SEOUL, South Korea—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has another passion apart from running the isolationist communist nation: basketball.

In 2000, then US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visited North Korea and gave the reclusive Kim a ball signed by American basketball icon Michael Jordan during a brief thaw in relations between their countries.

"We should make our youths and workers play a lot of basketball," North Korean media quoted Kim Jong Il as saying that year. It's unclear whether the 5-feet-3-inch tall leader is good at his favored sport.

Kim will soon have a new 12,300-seat US$57 million basketball court in his capital, Pyongyang, constructed by South Korea's Hyundai.

North Korea began promoting basketball as part of the "Grow Tall Movement" during a deadly famine in the mid-1990s, Northern defectors say. Malnutrition stunted the growth of many North Korean children, according to aid workers.

North Korean media have claimed students playing basketball were 3- to 5-centimeters (1.2-1.9 inches) taller than those playing other sports. It said the game "activates hundreds of millions of brains cells per second."

In 1997, North Korea introduced its own scoring system, giving eight points to baskets made in the final two seconds.

According to Pyongyang's official *Chongnyonjunwie* newspaper, dunks are three points, and one point is deducted for every free-throw miss. Four points are given to shots made from more than 21 feet and to 3-pointers that hit the net without touching the rim. AP

KIM: Antidote for famine.

KENNETH Cayukang of JRU tries to slip past Arden Guiyab of Perpetual in their NCAA match won by the Bombers Wednesday, 78-73. RUDY ESPERAS

NCAA BASKETBALL

Lions, Bombers dispute lead at start of 2nd round

STANDINGS	W	L
Juniors		
SBC	7	0
CSJL	5	2
SSC-R	5	2
LSGH	4	3
MIT	4	3
PCU	2	5
JRU	1	.6
UPHR	0	7
Seniors		
JRU	5	2
CSJL	5	2
SBC	5	2
SSC-R	4	3
MIT	4	3
PCU	3	4
UPHR	2	5
CSB	0	7

THE SECOND round of the 2003-2004 NCAA basketball tournament begins Monday with San Beda College and Jose Rizal University trying to extend their domination of the senior division at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

San Beda battles Philippine Christian University at 1:15 p.m., while Jose Rizal tackles St. Benilde at 4:45 p.m.

The San Beda Lions and the JRU Heavy Bombers finished the first round with 5-win, 2-loss records, sharing top spot with the Letran Knights, who drew a bye.

The Red Lions will be minus 6-foot-4 center Michael Casiño who, together with Mapua's Nathaniel Cruz, got ejected last July 25 after an altercation during a rebound play with 4:28 left in the third quarter. Casiño and Cruz will serve one-game suspensions.

Junior division matches pit the unbeaten San Beda Cubs against the PCU Baby Dolphins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Letran Squires-La Salle Greenhills tussle at 3 p.m.

The second round was supposed to begin today, but the NCAA Management Committee declared it as a rest day owing to the tight contest in the senior division.

Tailing the frontrunners are Mapua and defending champion San Sebastian, both at 4-3.

In contrast to the tight fight among their elders, the reigning titlist Red Cubs are pulling away in the juniors division.

The Red Cubs, also the national inter-secondary champion, swept the first round with a 92-86 victory over the Mapua Red Robins. The Ato Badolato-mentored Red Cubs posted an average winning margin of 18 points in seven games.

All second round matches will be held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum except for two game-days in the second week of competition, Aug. 13 and 15, which will be at the Makati Coliseum.

Favored Russian volleybelles down US in thriller

MATERA, Italy—Russia shook free of the United States Wednesday to step within reaching distance of its second-straight World Grand Prix title in women's volleyball.

In their first meeting of the tournament, Russia beat the United States in pulsating four sets 25-19, 21-25, 25-21, 25-17.

The US team, which had been gunning to unseat top-ranked Russia, struggled to find its offensive footing under fire from Russians Ekaterina Gamova and Evguenia Artamonova, who combined for 42 points.

Tayyiba Haneef led the US attack with 18 points.

With the loss, the United States drops to a 1-2 record in the round-robin final, while Russia improves to a perfect 3-0.

China also improved to 3-0, beating Italy in four sets 25-22, 23-25, 25-15, 25-20. Ruirui Zhao led all scoring with 21 points.

Italy remains winless at 0-3.

China, which lost to Russia in the preliminaries, is second in the overall rankings and will face Russia Sunday in the concluding match of the finals.

Also Wednesday, the Netherlands rallied from two sets down to beat South Korea in five sets 18-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-20, 22-20.

The tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Asia, was moved to Italy earlier this year because of fears about SARS.

AP

rupt dismissal

ormer NBA referee Dar- conducted a three-day ne league's pool of regu- ng referees.

nd company were taken roster along with anoth- eferee, Art Herrera, after ndpicked 10 veteran ref- r rookies to compose the ng staff.

ne INQUIRER learned, was ed but relegated to the training pool.

The case has a precedent as former PBA ref Domingo Bartolome also sued then commissioner Jun Bernardino for unjustly terminating his contract in 1998.

Bartolome, who also asked for back wages and moral damages, initially won the case based on a decision by an NLRC labor arbiter, but the ruling was reversed by the commission's first division. The case is now gathering dust at the Court of Appeals.

d line of defense for Alaska in its win over China's Magnolia-Jilin,

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Kobe's accuser 'consented to consensual sex'

EAGLE, Colorado—Kobe Bryant and the woman who accused him of sexual assault had some consensual sexual contact in his mountain resort suite, but prosecutors will argue the woman did not consent to intercourse, ABC News reported Wednesday.

BRYANT admits he had sex with the woman.

Citing unnamed sources, the network also said the 19-year-old woman was in Bryant's room for less than a half hour and that Bryant later gave inconsistent statements to Eagle County authorities.

The woman suffered physical trauma in the vaginal area, the Rocky Mountain News reported Thursday, citing law enforcement sources close to the investigation.

Krista Flannigan, a spokesperson for the Eagle County prosecutor, did not return calls or pages late Wednesday. She declined comment to the newspaper.

Bryant's attorney, Pamela Mackey, did not return a phone message seeking comment. Police and court records have been sealed and a judge has limited what officials can say about the case.

Bryant, an All-Star guard for the Los Angeles Lakers, has been charged with one count of sexual assault. Bryant, who is married with one daughter, said he had consensual sex with the woman.

Bryant has posted a $25,000 bond and is scheduled to return to Colorado on Aug. 6 for an initial court appearance, where he will be advised of the charge against him and of his rights.

In a report posted on its Web site, ABC News reported that the woman, who was a concierge at the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, gave Bryant a tour of the facility on June 30. He later called and asked her to come to his room and she did, the report said.

When he filed charges July 18, prosecutor Mark Hurlbert said he had both physical and testimonial evidence to prove the case. He said Bryant forced the victim into "submission" through physical force but refused to disclose other details.

County Judge Frederick Gannett will hear arguments Thursday during a four-hour hearing on whether the records should be made public. He agreed Wednesday to allow cameras in the courtroom for that hearing. *AP*

MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB
THE FORUM FOR CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS

31 July 2003

MBC STATEMENT ON THE MAKATI MUTINY

The Makati Business Club commends President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for her firm and decisive handling of the weekend Makati mutiny which resulted in its swift and peaceful resolution.

We were deeply concerned with and extremely disturbed by the incident since it occurred in the center of the Makati business district and at the heart of the country's financial center, damaging the country's interests and its image abroad.

Despite its fortunate conclusion, we believe the mutineers should be court martialled forthwith. We call on the government and its responsible agencies to also apply the full force of the law against those civilians who may have instigated or supported the mutiny.

Nevertheless, we also call for an exhaustive inquiry into the causes and reasons behind it, particularly the charges and complaints of those who staged the incident, with the expectation that they will be addressed expeditiously so that similar incidents can be prevented in the future. However, valid complaints which can be attended to currently should not await the results of the Feliciano Commission.

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DONTRELLE Willis pitches Marlins past Diamondbacks, 3-1 Wednesday. AP

Valentin blasts 3 homers

KANSAS CITY, Missouri—Jose Valentin hit three home runs in the first five innings and Paul Konerko had a grand slam and a career-high six RBIs as the Chicago White Sox routed the Kansas City Royals 15-4 Wednesday.

Chicago has won three straight games, pulling within two games of American League Central-leading Kansas City, the closest the White Sox have been to first place since April 8. Chicago set season highs for runs, hits (19) and homers (six).

"It was one of those days where you see pitches to hit and you don't miss them," Valentin said. "I didn't try to hit three out, but it happened. It was a great game for me."

Valentin hit a solo homer in the second and three-run home run in the third, both swinging left-handed off Runelvys Hernandez (5-4). Valentin homered right-handed to lead off the fifth against Jeremy Affeldt, then walked twice and struck out.

"You add (Roberto) Alomar and (Carl) Everett to a team that's swinging the way we're swinging the bat and it makes for a tough lineup to go through," White Sox manager Jerry Manuel said. "You have Magglio Ordonez as hot as he is and Paul Konerko heating up. Jose Valentin can be damaging as well."

Jon Garland (8-7) allowed four runs and eight hits in six innings.

In Arlington, Texas, Laynce Nix, Mark Teixeira and Hank Blalock homered, and Nix drove in four runs as Texas beat Boston.

Robert Ellis (1-1) gave up two runs and six hits in seven-plus innings for his first victory since June 16, 2001.

Rangers All-Star shortstop Alex Rodriguez went 3-for-5 after saying before the game that he was so frustrated by losing that he would consider a trade.

Ramiro Mendoza (3-5) gave up seven runs and seven hits over 4 1-3 innings.

In Minneapolis, Brad Radke (7-9) won for just the second time in 13 starts, taking a four-hit shutout into the eighth as Minnesota beat Baltimore.

Radke wound up allowing one run and six hits in 7 1-3 innings, his fewest runs allowed since opening day.

Jacque Jones had three RBIs for the Twins, who moved with 5 1/2 games of first place.

Sidney Ponson (14-6), the subject of trade rumors, gave up five runs and seven hits in seven innings. *AP*

Sex isn't everything –Ronaldo

RONALDO

KUNMING, China—World Footballer of the Year Ronaldo says sex isn't everything and he's got no complaints about abstaining for two weeks while on a tour of Asia.

However, the Spanish superstar was clearly flummuxed by the question from a Chinese reporter, and was heard muttering: "This is tasteless."

He recovered his composure to say he would make up for lost time when he got back to Madrid.

"Well, we're all professionals and we're working and we're only thinking about getting ready and that's it," he said here.

"We have plenty of time for sex and we have all our lives for that and two weeks is not going to kill us. And I'm sure we'll make up for lost time."

At the World Cup last year, the Real Madrid striker admitted that scoring both goals in the final had been better than sex.

"The World Cup is better than sex," he said. "Anyway, the World Cup is only once every four years and sex is not." Ronaldo has since separated from wife Milene Nazario Da Lima, who is a football player. *AFP*

Woods pulls out old driver for US PGA

RICHMOND, Virginia—Tiger Woods is turning back the clock in a bid to rediscover his winning touch.

In an effort to salvage a poor season, Woods, whose last major win was at the 2002 US Open, is switching back to his old driver in the run-up to next month's US PGA championship.

The eight-time major winner and undisputed world number one said this week he had decided to put aside the Nike driver he has been using since the start of 2002 and go back to his trusty 1997 Titleist 975D.

Deciding that size is not everything, Woods is switching back to the smaller driver in the defense of his title at the Buick Open in Grand Blanc, Michigan, from Thursday and will continue to use it at least through the US PGA Championship which starts on August 14.

"It feels good to step up and hit something I feel confident hitting," Woods said on Monday of a club that is no longer manufactured.

Woods has a multi-million-dollar endorsement contract with Nike, covering clothing and equipment, but the company have allowed him to be selective over his clubs.

He finally switched to Nike Irons last September but still has a few Titleist clubs in the bag.

The driver has been the particular sticking point and after continually being out-hit off the tee Woods recently made a public request for mandatory testing of drivers at PGA Tour events due to the length his competitors were finding. *Reuters*

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS From page A27

1. False (Franco Nero played Django in the 1966 film)
2. Black Pearl
3. John Daly
4. Munchkin
5. Marvin Webster
6. Wayne Gretzky (Ice hockey)
7. "Kintanar Radio Service" (His original manager, a certain Mr. Kintanar, owned a radio shop in Cebu City)

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SPORTSWATCH

Tennis challenge at Philam Homes

THE ADIDAS Tennis Challenge 2003 unwraps at the Philam Homes Tennis Club in West Avenue, Quezon City on Aug. 2-3 and 9-10. Featured events in the netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop with support from Milo and Wilson balls are the junior men's and women's 21-under; boys' and girls' 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions. Adidas netters Kyle Dandan, Christian Canias, Berry Sepulveda and Irwin de Guzman are entered in their respective categories and are expected to be crowded for honors by other top-ranked junior players in the country.

Barte shares honor with Balce

NAGA—Czech Republic-bound Ralph Barte shared final day honors with Mark Balce and Kevin Mamawal in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop over the weekend here at the Nordia Tennis Club. Barte downed Christian Balang of Iriga, 6-1, 6-2, in the boys' 16-under and San Beda's Marvin Serito, 6-1, 6-4, in the boys' 14-under divisions. Balce edged Kim Saraza 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 in the boys' 12-under and Mamawal outclassed Christian Imperial 6-2, 6-2 in the unisex 10-under in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, Adidas and Sports Kids. Other winners in the Milo Junior Tennis Cup sanctioned by Philta VP region-5 Alfredo Magdangal and coordinated with Philta regional director Efren Enverga and Baao Tennis Club president Elpidio Gonowon Jr. were Zhane Quitara and Chynna Mamawal in the girls' 12-under; Quitara in the girls' 14-under; and Julie Em Botor with Kristine Portacio in the girls' 16-under brackets.

Pacquiao Scoop guest today

PACQUIAO

FILIPINO IBF (International Boxing Federation) super-bantam champion Manny Pacquiao will be the main guest in today's Scoop Sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Expected to accompany Pacquiao in the session, sponsored by Photokina Marketing, are his wife Jinkee and cornermen Lito Mondejar and Buboy Fernandez. Scoop president Eddie Alinea said the session starts at 11 a.m. and will be aired live on Sports Radio.

Inter-hardware caging Aug. 11

THE 1ST Carlson Invitational Cup, an inter-hardware basketball friendship tournament, will begin on Aug. 11. Product endorser Asi Taulava will grace the event. Conceived and sponsored by Carlson Trading, the event will be participated by teams from Handyman, True Value, Wilcon Builders, the Diy Shop and Hardware Exchange Workstation. These pillars of the Philippine hardware supply industry would be contributing their talent and resources for the benefit of the construction of the Children's Village project of Bantay Bata Foundation in Bulacan. Games will be played every day from Aug. 11 to Sept. 29 in different venues such as Manila Bulletin, Dumlao Gym and Mandaluyong Gym. Admission is free.

Indonesia leads pencak silat entries

DEFENDING overall champion Indonesia leads 10 countries which have confirmed their participation in the 2nd Asia Pacific Pencak Silat Championship on Aug. 11-16 at Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Indonesia named 26 athletes in the delegation, followed by Malaysia, last year host Singapore and Brunei, who also have the same number of entries. Vietnam settled for 20 athletes, Thailand 14 and host Philippines 26. Philippine Pencak Silat president Sultan Jamalul Kiram III expressed his gratitude to all countries which made their decision to attend the event. Japan, Australia and Yemen also confirmed their participation.

RP to field 3 teams in Asia Bridge

THREE teams will represent the Philippines in the 2003 Pacific Asia Bridge championships slated Aug. 29-Sept. 7 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati. Chosen by the Philippine Tournament Bridge Association, the members of the Philippine Open Team are Bridge Life Masters Zeya Hoda, Phoebe Lin, Albert Quiogue, George Soo, Allen Tan and K.T. Yang. The non-playing captain is Nonot Carreon. Members of the Philippine Ladies Team are Sylvia Lopez Alejandro, Angelina Cockrell, Menchie Cu-Unjieng, Midori Kaneko, Helen Tubangui and Rose Unson. The non-playing captain is Gerry Alquiros. Composing the Philippine Youth Team are Eleazar T. Cabanilla, Anna Liza M. Castro, Jehran Gehran Chua, Andrew S. Falcon, Joseph Roman M. Maliwat III and Michael Samson. The non-playing captain is Albert Quiogue.

Lunas defends crown against Thai

ROLLY Lunas' defense of the Pan-Asia Boxing Association junior flyweight title against Thai Deeden Kengkarun topbills the "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong" set Aug. 8 at the Mandaluyong City gymnasium. Proceeds of the event, which is presented by Jun Sarreal's LS International, will go to the Filipino Disabled Boxers' Fund. Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos has already expressed his support for the said event. In the co-feature, RP bantam champ Johnny Lear will make a mandatory defense of his title against top-ranked contender Alvin Felisilda.

Royale Tagaytay holds tourney

MORE than 100 club members and guests are expected to participate in the second leg of the Royale Tagaytay Individual Golf Tournament at Royale Tagaytay on Sunday. Tee-off time is 6 a.m.-11 a.m. The 2003 Clara International Cup is an 18-hole Individual Golf Tournament which will use the Callaway Handicapping System.

Bowling classic 4th leg tomorrow

THE 4TH Leg of the ANPC-ISCBC 900 Bowling Classic kicks off at the Royale Tagaytay Country Club tomorrow. Participating in the Inter-Sports Club Bowling Circuit are Celebrity Sports Plaza, Green Valley Country Club, Makati Sports Club, MetroClub, Philippine Columbian Association, Quezon City Sports Club and Royale Tagaytay Country Club.

Sagupaan championship today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the "Sagupaan sa Tag-Ulan 4-Cock Derby" will be held today at Pasay City Cockpit. At stake is P600,000 and two brand-new owner type jeeps for the champions. Derby hosts Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola said 34 new entries from Bicol, Masbate, Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas and Quezon Province are seeing action today. A field of 66 participants competed in last Wednesday's elimination round. Meanwhile, the annual "Richard L. Bates 7-Stag National Derby" is set at Pasay Cockpit on Aug. 28 and 30, with well-known breeder Richard Bates as host. For details, contact 816-6750, 843-1746 and 843-1890.

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SPORTS LEADER OF THE YEAR
Sports commissioner Leon Montemayor (right) receives his Sports Leader of the Year plaque from Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain (center) and former ambassador and Agriculture secretary Roberto Sebastian during the 9th So Kim Cheng Foundation awards night recently in Davao City.

BRITISH OPEN

Jenny upbeat on chances

ROSALES

AN airline snafu denied Jennifer Rosales of the needed practice round, but she remained upbeat on her chances in the Weetabix Women's British Open which started yesterday in Lancashire, England.

The golf set and luggage of Rosales, and the bags of her caddy (Sam Hansho), and swing coach Bong Lopez went to a wrong destination while they were in transit from Paris, where they competed in the Evian Masters last week.

The snafu cost them their familiarization round scheduled last Monday as their luggage arrived only on Tuesday.

"We're just hoping that it would become a blessing in disguise. Jenny was able to get more rest in her hotel room since the weather was not too good anyway," Lopez said in a text message.

The Rosales camp instead focused more on her putting, especially after Rosales struggled on the greens in France, where she even shifted to the crosshand grip to no avail.

"We felt that it was just a minor adjustment and for the past two days Jenny worked so hard on her putting stroke. We are expecting a better result here in England," said Lopez.

Meanwhile, Philippine bets in the US Kids World Championship plunge into action today in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Leading the charge are Wolen Juan Superal and Miguel Tabuena, the top performers in the Junior World who won their respective divisions in the Junior Desert Classic in Palm Springs, California.

Also in the delegation is Dottie Ardina, winner of the 8 and under division last year in the same event.

Jong Arcano

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2. Baldomero R. Castro	0014311	Diliman, Quezon City	P1,000.00
3. Lucki Lyn Capili	0004476	Proj.7, Quezon City	P1,000.00
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5. Myca Trozado	0038339	Muntinlupa City	P1,000.00
6. Lani C. Sulo	0014109	Culiat, Quezon City	P1,000.00
7. Lailanie Andres	0007488	Muntinlupa City	P1,000.00
8. Nieza T. Caragay	0015344	Caloocan City	P1,000,00
9. Seychelles June Doringo	0013259	Baler, Aurora	P1,000.00
10. Richard M. Mendoza	0002812	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	P1,000.00
11. Arlene V. Alcalde	0053816	San Mateo, Rizal	P1,000.00
12. Beth Huab	0008261	Baguio City	P1,000.00
13. Baltazar Caguioa	0016700	Samapaloc, Manila	P1,000.00
14. Myrah Banoyo	0014144	Valenzuela City	P1,000.00
15. Carites Dominguez	0007747	Imus, Cavite	P1,000.00
16. Czarina D. Umali	0037832	Cubao, Quezon City	P1,000.00
17. Demetrio P. Tovera	0015044	Sn. Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	P1,000.00
18. Mary Joy Belizario	0007651	San Pedro, Laguna	P1,000.00
19. Imelda F. Tosio	0004527	Sta. Cruz, Manila	P1,000.00
20. George Armado	0014035	Sta. Cruz, Manila	P1,000.00

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0251 Series of 2003

RACING TIPS

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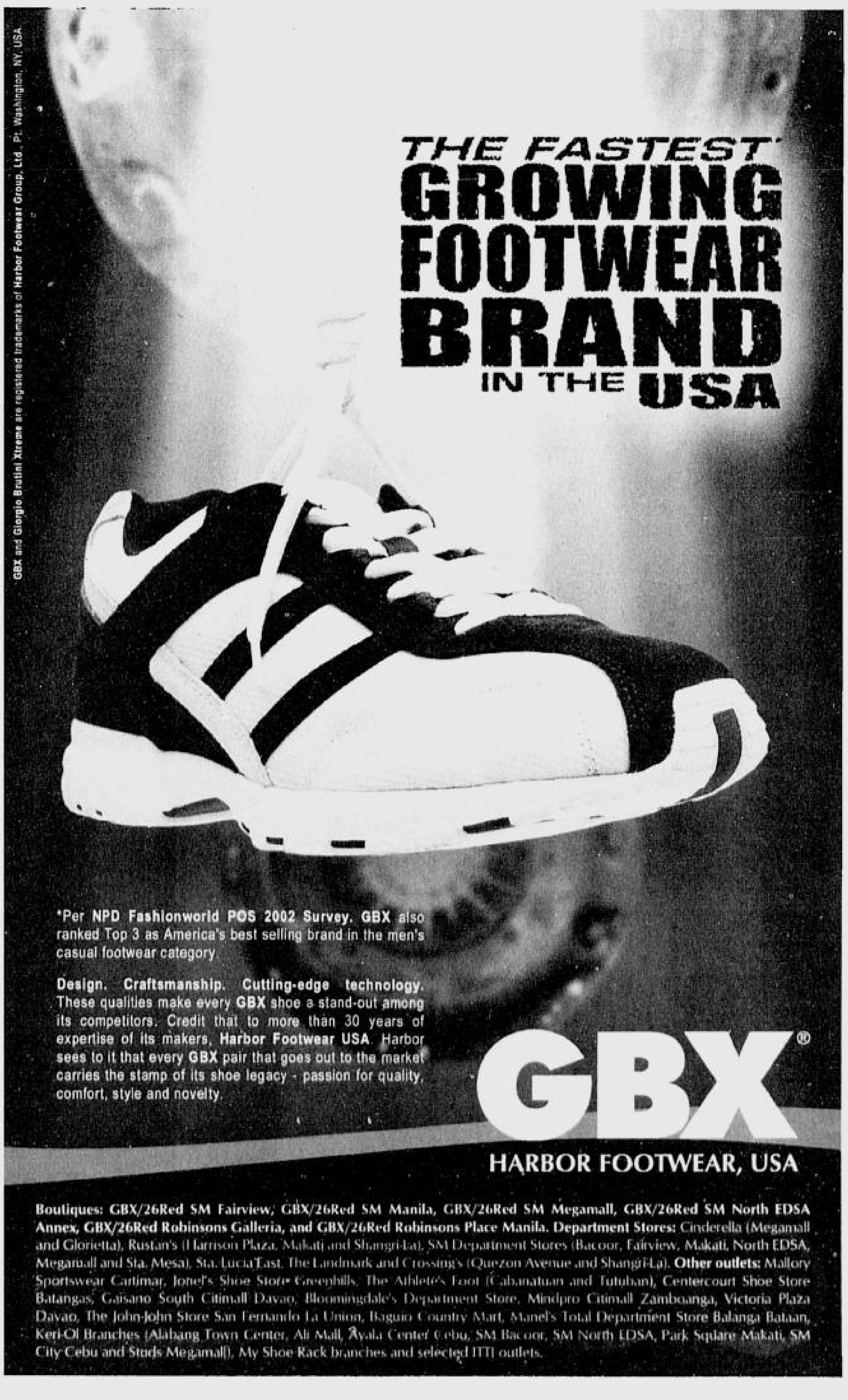
Race 2--1. Gold Honors 2. Tanging Ikaw 3. Aaron's Hope
Race 3--1. Musikero 2. Penthouse 3. Nitty Gritty 4. Sovereign Dancer
Race 4--1. Dreams of Flame 2. Rain Check 3. Currency
Race 5--1. Heartland 2. Blue Iris 3. Audrey's Temper 4. Gorgie Girl 5. Pangako Sa Yo/Mutya ng Nayon
Race 6--1. Hellosilvergirl 2. Everybodyhappy 3. Ahead of Time
Race 7--1. Savvy Lad/Fortissimo 2. Dona Gelay 3. Flying Mahine 4. Secret Quest/Love and Kisses 5. Striker
Race 8--1. Hurry King 2. Night Flight 3. Maple My Love
Race 9--1. Manila Miss 2. Defense Minister 3. Princess Malinda 4. Cabernet 5. Detonator 6. Bring Home D Bacon

Sportscaster makes 3rd hole-in-one

VETERAN sportscaster and KGB president Dick Ildefonso fired a hole-in-one during the 1st Oasis of Love tournament at the Eastridge Golf and Country Club in Binangonan, Rizal on Aug. 30. Ildefonso scored the feat on the 35-yard, 16th hole with a Callaway Hawkeye VFT 7 iron and a Top Flite #2 ball in the company of Ramy Diez, Dr. Enriquez Collantes Jr. and Yung Hok Choi. This is Ildefonso's 3rd ace.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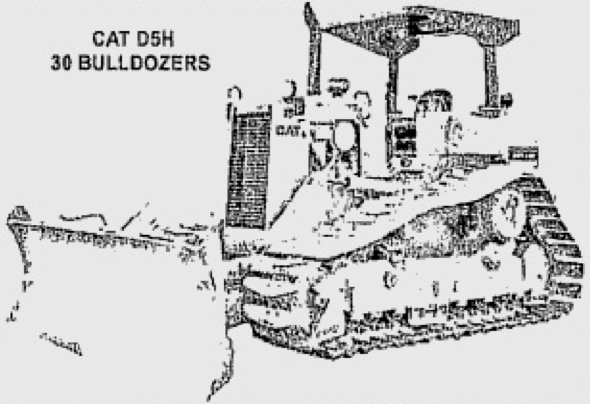

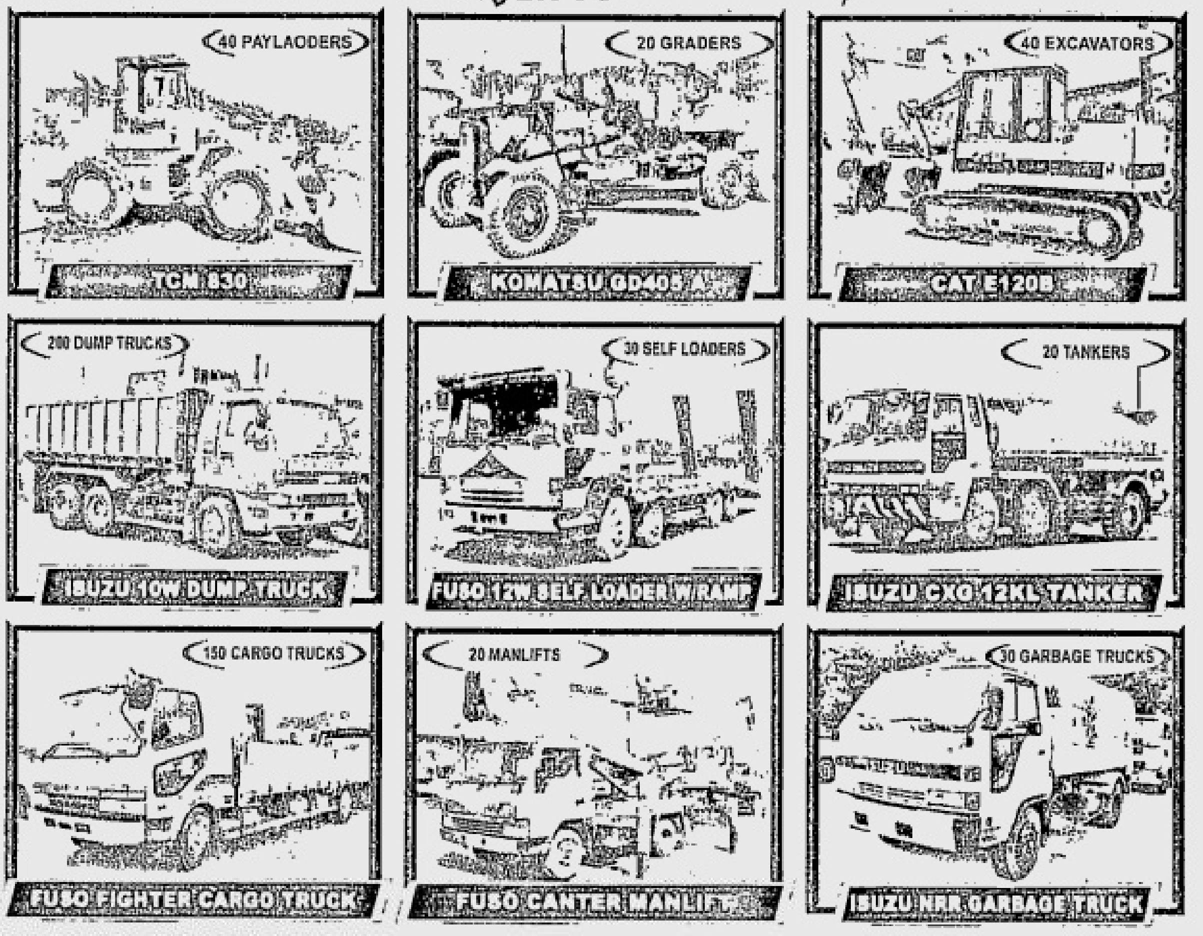

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SPORTS

Dableo, Paragua boost title drive

ASIAN Zonal champion Ronald Dableo and IM Joseph Sanchez won their fifth round matches yesterday to catch up with fellow Filipino Marc Paragua and bolster their title drive in the XV Open Cannes International Open Chess Championships in Cannes, France.

Dableo beat Pierre Lafaure of France while Sanchez trounced another French, Marc Karila, to boost their total to four points, the same score posted by Paragua. They were just half-a-point behind pacesetter GM Lexy Ortega of Italy.

Paragua couldn't extract a win with the white pieces and settled for a draw with GM Milko Pochev of Bulgaria in the top board encounter of the 128-man field.

The 20-year-old Paragua, seeking his second GM result like Dableo, now has three wins and two draws to share 2nd to 8th places with Dableo, Sanchez, Milkov and Fide Master Alain Spielman of France.

" The draw is okay, at least I still have the momentum. I hope this will continue," said Paragua, an enlisted man of the Philippine Air Force, during a long distance interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Just pray for us," said the 32-year-old Sanchez, a member of the Philippine Navy.

In the sixth round, Paragua will be facing Spielman even as Sanchez and Dableo part ways. *Roy Luarca with a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

DABLEO

Mariano 5th in Dubai Open

FILIPINO Nelson "Elo" Mariano III scored 6.5 points to finish solo fifth place in the 14 and below division of the 2nd Dubai Open Junior age group chess championships at the Dubai Chess and Culture Club in Dubai, United Arab Emirates yesterday. The 8th-seeded Mariano defeated 23rd seed Wais Ahmed of UAE in the ninth and final round. In the under 12 division, Ronald Francis Ducalang scored 4.0 points while Dean Chester Ariola tallied 3.0 points.

In the under 10 category, Axel John Valerio notched 5.0 points to share 10th to 13th place while Cheradee Chardine Camacho finish 14th to 16th places with 4.5 points.

At 21st to 24th place is Valerio Anita with 3.0 points.

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E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Bangko Sentral keeps rates unchanged

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas kept its overnight interest rates steady yesterday, saying volatility in the peso after a failed mutiny by 300 renegade troops was "regional, seasonal and temporary."

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters the central bank did not intervene in the foreign exchange market yesterday. He also said the BSP saw average inflation in 2003 coming in below 4 percent.

The BSP's Monetary Board trimmed its policy rates by a quarter percentage point earlier this month to the lowest levels in more than 11 years after an identical cut by the US Federal Reserve last month.

The peso yesterday closed at 54.72 to $1 from 54.70 on Wednesday.

Buenaventura said "a depreciating peso is not a reason for interest rates to go up" especially since to him, the blip in the local currency's movement was not related to interest rates.

The central bank's overnight borrowing rate is at 6.75 percent and the lending rate at 9 percent.

They were last adjusted in July 2 when the Monetary Board reduced the level by 25 basis points, a move that some market players said might have been unnecessary as it let loose excess funds into the system that could have been used to speculate against the peso.

"The current rates are sufficient to sustain economic growth and at levels that will prevent a resurgence of higher price levels. There is also no need to mop up liquidity," the central bank chief said.

Traders said that while the central bank might have stayed away from the spot market, it had applied moral suasion on banks.

"Essentially, we heard that the BSP had been calling banks to tell them to help ease the buying pressure. Otherwise, monetary authorities could consider jacking up rates," a trader said.

Buenaventura said the continued weakness of the peso was due to regional movements, seasonal demand for dollars, and recent political events.

"As the government takes steps to correct the situation, then we would go back to economic fundamentals and the peso would start to recover," he said.

Traders said the political uncertainty following the weekend coup would have a lasting effect that could lead to a further decline in the peso's value in the coming days, especially as it happened at a time when importers have been scrambling for dollars to finance their purchases toward the Christmas season.

"Given the dearth in dollars as exporters and families of overseas workers wait for a better time to change their greenback coupled with a heavy demand from importers, the peso is not out of the woods yet," according to one trader.

INDICATORS

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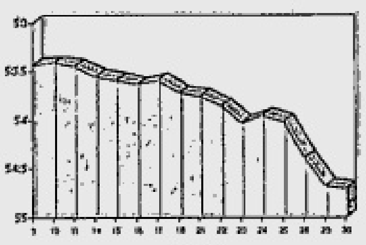


JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱54.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 31, 2003

¥120.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 31, 2003

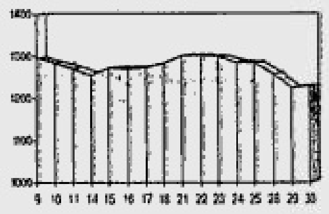
GOLD: $356.00-356.30

per ounce Hong Kong, July 31, 2003

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks sustain rise

STOCKS rose for a second straight session yesterday after the market plumbed to its lowest levels in nearly a month early this week in the wake of a failed weekend mutiny by 300 soldiers.

PLDT and Globe Telecom led the rebound.

"It seems like the dust is slowly settling down," said Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines. "This is just bargain hunting."

The main index rose one percent or 12.23 points to 1,240.42 on modest turnover of P513.3 milion. It is up 21.8 percent so far this year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo warned yesterday the country was not totally out of danger after the uprising but said the government was tracking down the plotters and financiers of the mutiny.

"It is uncertain, however, if we have seen the last of the heavy selling that characterised trading early this week. Sellers may just be waiting for more opportune prices to unload again," said BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap.

"Hopefully, the stigma of this negative event will lose its potency with the passage of time. A succession of first-half results next week may be sufficient to refocus investor attention on corporate fundamentals." *Reuters*

Security Bank profit up 76%

PUBLICLY listed Security Bank Corp., a medium-sized commercial bank controlled by businessman Frederick Dy, reported a 76-percent jump in earnings in the first half of this year to P475 million from P269 million in the same period last year.

"Security Bank's financial performance this year continues to be outstanding, with net income generated in the first six months of 2003 already at 94 percent of our full-year earnings in 2002," Security Bank president and chief executive Rafael Simpao Jr. said in a statement.

Simpao credited the bank's first-half performance to substantial trading gains, reduced operating expenses and efforts to generate new revenue streams.

The bank had focused on expanding business volumes through improved total customer relationship management and by maximizing product cross-sale opportunities.

The bank also continued rationalizing its branches, products and account relationships with emphasis on building up fee-based income.

The first-half profit was also achieved despite the bank's move to set aside P489 million for loan-loss provisions. The additional

SECURITY/ B3

PLDT hype joins the PLDT CYBER MADNESS at SM Cebu, SM Pampanga & Virramall on Aug 1-3, 2003.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2117, Series of 2003

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Gov't seen window-dressing 2004 revenue assumption

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has included the P13.42 billion in projected revenue from three pieces of legislation in the budget assumption for 2004 even if the proposed measures have been pending in Congress for several years now.

A source said the government had included in its revenue assumption of P671.2 billion potential collections from the proposed indexing of beer and tobacco taxes and rationalization of motor vehicle and documentary stamp taxes.

The source suspects that the government is window-dressing its budget to justify increases in expenditures during the election year.

"It is so hard to pass a law during election year and if these measures were not passed, we will naturally see a higher deficit," said a government official.

Included in the revenue assumptions were the P7 billion in expected collection from the indexing of sin taxes, the P1.42 billion from the adjustment in motor vehicle excise taxes, and P5 billion from the rationalization of documentary stamp taxes.

The government is planning to submit to Congress a budget proposal of P864.8 billion for 2004. Under the program, the government will spend P896 billion and raise P671.2 billion in revenues to contain the deficit to P197.815 billion.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue is expected to account for P488.6 billion of the total collection followed by the Bureau of Customs with P105.2 billion, which represent increases of 15 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

The Bureau of Treasury is expected to contribute P30.5 billion next year. Revenue from other sources such as the road-users tax was estimated at P7.522 billion.

Fees and charges collected by other government agencies should hit P23.218 billion while the sale of government assets was estimated to generate P1 billion.

In the meantime, the finance department has started conducting simulation on the potential impact of variables such as interest rates and inflation on revenues, disbursement, and consequently the deficit.

A percentage point increase in inflation and in gross domestic product are expected to increase collection by P4.4 billion and P5 billion, respectively.

This year, the finance department estimated that for every peso depreciation in the currency, revenue would increase by P1.4 billion while a point increase in the 91-day treasury bill rate would contribute P1.8 billion.

A similar movement in inflation and GDP would bring additional income of P6.5 billion and P4.7 billion.

But the peso weakness and higher interest rates will be offset by higher debt and interest payments.

PNB to start selling P30B in seized assets

PHILIPPINE National Bank yesterday said it would start selling some P30 billion worth of residential and commercial properties through monthly auctions to be conducted by CB Richard Ellis, which was appointed auction consultant and manager.

PNB has P75 billion worth of non-performing assets, consisting of P30 billion worth of foreclosed properties and P48 billion worth of bad loans.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said the auctions would start next month.

Most of the assets to be offered are residential and commercial properties, condominium units and commercial spaces mostly in the National Capital Region.

"This year, our target is to sell at least P3 billion worth of foreclosed assets but there is no reason why we can't over perform it," said Tan in an interview.

CB Richard Ellis is the largest integrated real estate services provider in the world with annual revenues of approximately $2 billion. It specializes in investment sales, commercial and industrial leasing, assets and facilities management.

The group is backed by a strong local and global network with over 250 offices in 47 countries.

Tan said the bidding should attract institutional investors as well as retail buyers. *Clarissa S. Batino*

PNOC gets $175-M loan

PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. yesterday secured a $175-million loan facility to refinance its 10-percent stake in the Malampaya deepwater-gas-power project.

PNOC records show that the five-year, government-guaranteed loan will be used to prepay an existing loan facility that will mature in March 2004.

Citibank NA/Citigroup Global Markets Asia Ltd. and Standard Chartered lead a 15-bank consortium extending the loan.

During the signing ceremony held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati, PNOC president Thelmo Y. Cunanan said the government's stake in Malampaya was originally funded with a $130-million one-year, bridge financing in 2000.

In a statement, mandated lead arrangers Citigroup and Standard Chartered said the loan carries an annual interest of 3.5 percent over the dollar-denominated London interbank offered rates (US$ Libor). *Ronnel W. Domingo*

BEWARE:
Unauthorized Sale of Software On Government Accounting!!!

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

CIRCULAR

No. 2003-005
Date: July 30, 2003

TO : Heads of National Government Agencies, Government Corporations, Local Government Units and All Others Concerned.

SUBJECT : **Sale by Private Entities of New Government Accounting System (NGAS) Softwares to Government Agencies**

It has come to the attention of the Commission on Audit that computer softwares on the New Government Accounting System (NGAS) are being advertised for sale to government agencies.

The public is hereby warned that the Commission on Audit has not authorized any individual or private entity to develop and sell software on government accounting and financial management information systems. COA Circular No. 2001-003 dated October 2, 2001 advises all government agencies to put on hold their individual projects on computerization related to accounting and/or financial management information systems.

The Commission on Audit has already developed NGAS softwares which are ready for implementation. These will be given for free to all government agencies.

For your information and guidance.

GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
Chairman

Bazaar queen aims to reinvent 'tiangge' concept

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GROWING up in a family of 10 brothers and sisters can be quite taxing, to say the least, but it planted the seeds of a business that would make Carmencita Cruz-Mabanta one of the country's first and most enduring bazaar organizers.

The 45-year-old Mabanta told the INQUIRER that she was the sister who usually volunteered to organize all the family events, which were many, because it was something she simply wanted to do. Menchie is the third child in the family.

She organized all the birthday parties and eventually the weddings of her siblings, applying her passion for organization and her strict attention to the smallest details.

Mabanta eventually made some commercial use of her knack for events organization in 1975 when she organized her first big event with her good friend, Ida Ramos-Henares.

First crack

The event called "Exposition Extraordinaire" featured Manila's top 10 fashion designers including Christian Espiritu, Chona Kasten, Joe Salazar, Gerry Katigbak and Mike dela Rosa. It was held at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

"The designers put up mini-boutiques in the ballroom where they sold their creations. We had a series of fashion shows featuring Manila's top mannequins at that time led by Menchu Menchaca and Gina Leviste. I believe this concept was the springboard to my organizing bazaars," Mabanta says.

Mabanta organized her first Christmas bazaar in 1981, called "Wholesalers' Treat at the Mandarin," and she said there were only two or three of them who were into the same business at that time.

Since bazaars were a new concept at that time, she had to approach each possible vendor to join her event. She was finally able to convince about 50 to join her first bazaar.

"Of course, they did not know me from Adam. I had to prove to them what I could offer. Fortunately, it was highly successful.

Introducing the concept

She says she knew that it was successful because there was line of shoppers even before the opening hour and the bazaar was filled with people the whole day, vendors were all smiles and at the end of the day, they were already booking for the next year's event, even if she did not think of doing one yet in the first place.

MABANTA

The demand explains the growth, not only in the number of bazaar organizers like Mabanta, but in the size and scope of these events, convincing Mabanta to make a career out of it, and there was no looking back for her.

"I discovered that Filipinos love going to bargain places. My first bazaar being a big hit, prompted the vendors to call immediately after, to reserve the following year. It was really unplanned, it was one of those things," she said.

Mabanta added that bazaars appeal to entrepreneurs because these are relatively affordable venues for them to try out their products in the market, particularly for small and medium-scale enterprises.

"They use bazaars as vehicles to launch new products. They try it out, like a test market and the buyers are then able to get to buy new products that they cannot find in the mall," she explained.

Increasing competition

Competition has definitely increased since 1981, but Mabanta has managed to hold her own, primarily due to the loyalty of her clients, her reasonable fees, and the place and dates of her events.

She says the key is to get the best place and timing for the bazaar to assure the highest traffic for the vendors. Her bazaars typically get between 2,000 and 5,000 shoppers a day depending on the venue.

Among her landmark events, so far, were the F.O.B. Manila 1: A holiday Treat, A Christmas Gallery, The X'Mas Factory and F.O.B. Manila 2: A Holiday Treat II, which is usually held from Dec. 13-14 at the Makati Sports Club through her company, MenchiMabantaBazaars.

From 50 vendors that she had in 1981, her events now have over 150 vendors.

Events held at the Makati Sports Club can accommodate more.

"I have vendors, about 50 percent of them, who have been with me from day 1 to the present. I welcome novelty but food and garments are still the best sellers," she says.

Even celebrities have tried their hands in doing some business in her bazaars. These include Apples Aberin, Tweetie de Leon, Sarah Jane Paez and Angel Aquino.

Diversification

Her latest project is the MenchieMabantaBazaars@Fort Bonifacio, Global City, which will open on Sept. 3 at MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio owned by McDonalds' George Yang.

Unlike her bazaars that last for only a few days, the event at Fort Bonifacio would run for five months, from September to February, marking her diversification into *tiangge* operations.

"The venue really has a good potential and this *tiangge* is my newest baby. What I want to do is to bring the *tiangge* concept to a higher level by making it more organized and appealing for both the vendors and the buyers," she said.

There will be 50 booths and for a monthly rental starting at P12,000 (space at the Greenhills *tiangge* typically costs at least P30,000), the vendors will have a 1.5 x 3 square meter space, and their booths will have brand new tables, enclosures, personalized streamers and a 10-foot frontage for better display for their products.

"This is my way of helping our entrepreneurs in these times. We want to make our rates really low so that we can be of help, so we are inviting hobbyists or those who do not know what to do with their overruns to think about going into the bazaars or the *tiangges*," Mabanta said.

She said the bazaar business might seem easy to do but organizing a good bazaar that would satisfy both the buyers and the vendors, actually needed a lot more effort and considerations.

"The skill that you need is mainly a good grasp of marketing and organization because you need to have everything in order and pay attention to a million and one details," she said.

"I can be a perfectionist to a fault, but it is advantageous for the people I work for. You've got to endure. I make sure I don't promise things I can't deliver," she added.

Mabanta said that another secret to her success was having a very supportive husband.

"One should choose a husband who believes women can and should pursue their careers. Someone who will support you all the way," she stressed.

HOW TO SELL your BRAND WITHOUT *hiring a* CELEBRITY

By Dickie Soriano

It's a common problem that most businesses face: sales are down or not how you want them to be. If your business is big enough, you turn the problem over to an advertising agency, which will give you the typical advice: spend lots of money on advertising so you can get awareness. Then your problems will magically disappear. Sales will go through the roof. Your inventory will move. Your brand will be famous. And if you spend enough to get a celebrity endorser, you may even end up being on a first-name basis with a famous star.

Great scenario, except for a few things:

- Few companies want to spend lots of money (if they even have it in the first place).
- Awareness doesn't magically translate to sales.
- If after spending all that money your sales don't move, you won't get a refund.
- Honestly, how important is it for your business that you're on a first-name basis with a celebrity?

SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Having a business of my own and also being currently employed in one of the country's leading advertising agencies, I am in a peculiar position. Fortunately, I also work in a peculiar industry: direct marketing. Also known as database marketing, loyalty marketing, or customer relationship marketing.

TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA ON WHAT IT IS, YOU NEED TO KNOW WHAT IT'S NOT.

Direct marketing is not going house to house and knocking on doors to sell vacuum cleaners or plastic containers. It's not recruiting people, who will recruit people, who will recruit people, who will then sell P3,000 boxes of tea. It's definitely not putting leaflets in windshield wipers of parked cars.

THEN WHAT IS IT, REALLY?

Direct marketing, simply put, is the art and the science of identifying individual prospects and customers by using data culled from databases, communicating to them using relevant media with the goal of stirring enough reason and emotion to make them part with their money, and then measuring results based on sales and returns on investment.

NOT ALL YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE EQUAL

Most businesses have a philosophy that a customer is always right, and that every customer is a profitable customer. But a hard look at your customer database (if you keep one) will probably tell you something else. In all likelihood 20% of your customers give you 80% of your revenue. Your most profitable customers are also the ones most likely to buy your new products; BMW owners, for example, are typically the first ones who will snap up the newest BMW models in the market.

A database, if designed properly, would allow you to identify similarities among your best customers--thereby helping you target more people like them.

To help Unicef raise badly-needed funds for Filipino children in need, we wanted to find out what kind of people tend to give to charity. Our research showed that in France, Catholic grandmothers were more likely to donate to a direct mail charity appeal than any other segment. That insight helped us identify the likely targets. But in the Philippines, everyone is pretty much Catholic and half the population is below 18. So, instead, Unicef tested various lists, and found out that females are more likely to donate than males, but males tend to donate larger amounts.

The ability to learn (and apply the learning to the next campaign) is one of the benefits I enjoy most in direct marketing. Should there be an argument about which segment to target, which offer to use, or which creative material to send out, the argument can be settled by testing and evaluating the results.

THE SECRET TO GETTING MORE WHILE SPENDING LESS

3rd PHILIPPINE DM Forum

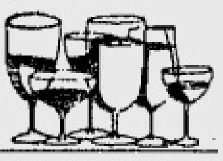
If you want to find out more about how to make bigger profits from your marketing efforts, attend the 3rd Philippine Direct Marketing Forum on August 26 and 27, 2003 at Shangri-la Hotel in Makati. A host of direct marketing professionals from all over Asia will be speaking on the latest trends in direct marketing, the tried-and tested strategies, as well as the best practices in the Philippines and the region. Register on or before August 8 to avail of the Early Bird Rate. And for more information, you can call the DM Forum Secretariat at 813-2732 or 813-2703 and ask for Jenny. You may also send and email to dmforum@edsamail.com.ph or visit www.dmforum.net.

About the author: Dickie Soriano started BCD Pinpoint Direct Marketing in 1988 and turned it into the country's largest full-service direct marketing agency. When Ogilvy & Mather, one of the world's leading advertising agencies, bought a stake in BCD, it also asked Dickie to take on the role of managing director of OgilvyOne Worldwide. He can be reached at dickie.soriano@bcdpinpoint.com

Advt

Pressed at Finance

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

IT LOOKS like Malacañang is not only pressing hard on the Department of Finance to increase revenues; it is also bearing down on Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho to drop his chief of staff as well.

According to the grapevine, Undersecretary Inocencio "Toto" Ferrer handed his irrevocable resignation yesterday after being informed by Malacañang that a newspaper publisher was after his neck.

Prior to his joining the DOF, Ferrer was a senior partner of Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz (what is now Villaraza and Angangco) law firm, the personal lawyers of Gloria and Mike Arroyo.

Ferrer's wife, Christine, a former newspaper society editor, is an active member of Women for Roco, her family being related to presidentiable Raul Roco.

Supreme mystery

FOURTEEN months since the Supreme Court ordered "with finality" the release of P124 million plus interest, representing half of the proceeds from the sale of a bloc of Bulletin shares by the Menzi estate, Menzi estate executor Manuel Montecillo still awaits the day when he can finally see the estate money.

The checks covering the amount have been turned over to the Supreme Court since end-February 2002, although the cold cash remains with Philtrust Bank.

Philtrust, like the Bulletin and the Manila Hotel, is controlled by Emilio Yap, and it has been keeping the cash hoard since 1984; the amount represents the Bulletin shares sold by former Bulletin owner Hans Menzi and his estate to the newspaper company itself.

Now, despite the Supreme Court/Sandiganbayan decisions, the Presidential Commission on Good Government has made it known it wants the Menzi money to be deposited in a government bank, the Land Bank, while the courts still hear the rest of the Bulletin cases.

Just to get his hands on at least part of the cash denied him for nearly two decades now, a frustrated Montecillo has told the PCGG he was willing to go along with their plan, provided the PCGG also joins him in asking the Supreme Court to release the other half to the Menzi estate.

The case has dragged on for so long, mainly because after the Supreme Court decided on May 18, 1988, to remand the case to the Sandiganbayan, the case docket took five long years, or on Dec. 10, 1993, to be exact, to finally reach the Sandiganbayan.

The answer to this five-year mystery is, which Supreme Court justice had custody of the case docket?

Oakwood anecdotes

- NOTWITHSTANDING the Oakwood mutiny, Sergio Mendes & Brasil '66/'77 are still pushing through with their Oct. 3 and 4 concerts at the Star City within the Cultural Center complex.
- THE MAGDALO officers apparently knew that the Oakwood/Glorietta complex is Globe territory, and hence were using mainly Globe/Touch Mobile cell phones during the Sunday siege.
- THE MUTINEERS also allowed the Oakwood staff to leave—after hundreds of guests had been evacuated—except the expatriates general manager and chef, who both live in the luxury apartment.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BOARD of the Manila Golf Club, headed by banker Deogracias Vistan, has denied a petition from a group identified with the former general manager asking that the position of the clubhouse manager, Janine de Padua, be abolished.

The petition had been camouflaged as a cost-cutting proposal.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Security Bank . . .

From page B1

reserves brought the bank's non-performing loan cover to 56 percent in mid-2003 from 50 percent end-2002.

The bank noted that the first-half gains were achieved despite a difficult business environment with continuing weak loan demand holding its loan portfolio levels flat.

In the second half of this year, Security Bank would follow through on its branch rationalization and relocation program, Simpao said.

It would also launch new corporate and retail cash management services, build on its insurance distribution with joint venture partner Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. as well as promote its new credit card brand, Security Bank MasterCard. *Elena R. Torrijos*

AXN leaves Destiny Cable

By Abigail L. Ho

DESTINY Cable Inc. said its closest competitor Beyond Cable Holdings Inc. was pressuring it to give in to a consolidation plan in the near future.

After last year's pullout of five top-rating Star Group Ltd. programs from Destiny Cable's line-up, action program channel AXN recently decided not to renew its contract with the cable operator. It will stop airing on Destiny Cable today.

Late last year, Destiny Cable and Beyond Cable signed a memorandum of understanding that opened the door for discussions of a possible consolidation.

However, Destiny Cable announced in early June that the merger talks collapsed due to "certain critical financial issues" that the two parties failed to resolve.

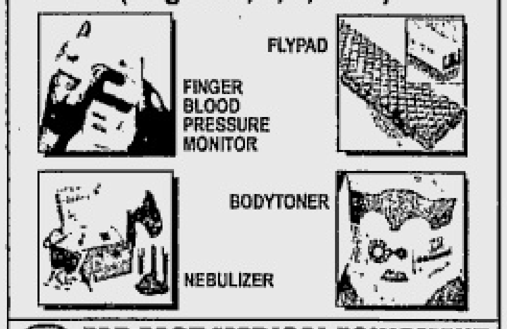
"We feel that joining the consortium of Beyond Cable at this time would not be beneficial to the long-term viability of Destiny Cable," Destiny Cable spokesperson Beda Mañalac said in an earlier statement.

Beyond Cable, composed of cable operators SkyCable Central CATV Inc. and Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc., had about P2.5 billion in debts, while Destiny Cable was virtually debt-free.

Destiny Cable president David Lim said in an interview yesterday that his firm was not keen on joining the Beyond Cable consortium at this time.

But he admitted that Beyond Cable had the obvious advantage right now because of its commanding share of the total cable television market.

3-DAY SALE
(August 1, 2, 3, 2003)



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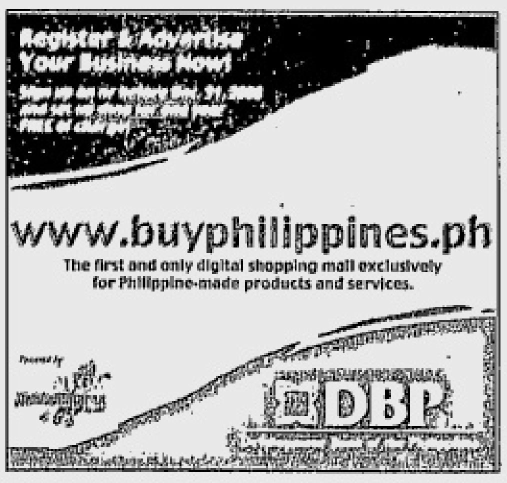
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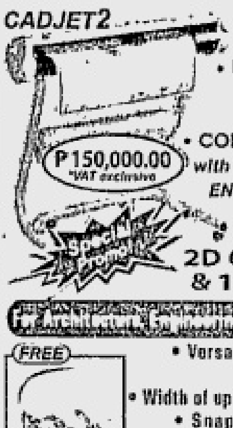

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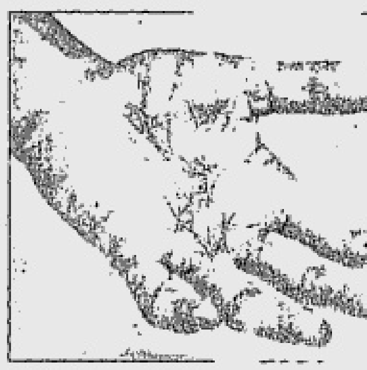

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week July 29, 2003	Last Week July 22, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.10100	1.10654
Managed Fund - Peso	1.10489	1.12429
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.99300	1.00130

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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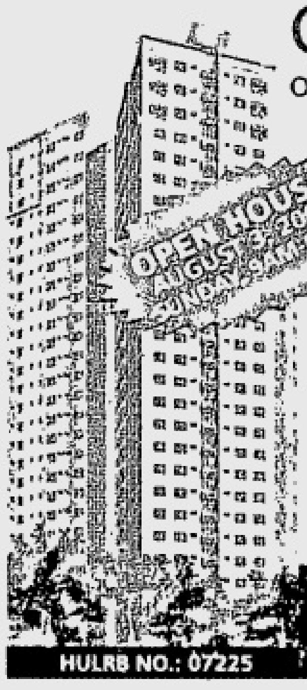

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UNIVERSAL REINSURANCE CORPORATION
SYNOPSIS OF ANNUAL STATEMENT
As of December 31, 2000

ADMITTED ASSETS		
Bonds	P	495,970,583.05
Investment in Treasury Bills		70,455,000.00
Investment in Stocks		203,157,307.93
Real Estate		106,932,150.46
Mortgage Loans		37,156,631.40
Collateral Loans		4,701,071.44
Other Loans		9,708,735.19
Security Fund		69,715.23
Other Investments		650,000.00
Cash in Office and in Banks		97,871,876.35
Premiums Due From Ceding Companies		60,064,745.44
Premiums Reserve W/held By Ceding Cos.		79,750,605.76
Loss Reserve W/held by Ceding Cos.		1,585,572.43
Reinsurance Recoverable on Losses		340,732,180.67
Accrued Investment Income		11,582,779.56
EDP Equipment		2,986,855.34
Total Admitted Assets	P	1,523,375,810.25
LIABILITIES		
Losses and Claims Payable	P	534,894,141.51
Reserve for Unearned Premiums		105,804,630.33
Catastrophe Loss Reserve		3,915,597.00
Premiums Due to Reinsurers		303,632,825.11
Premiums Reserve W/held for Reinsurers		54,340,191.16
Other Reinsurance Accounts Payable		7,531,857.99
Taxes Payable		133,839.20
Accrued Expenses		5,320,406.95
Accounts Payable		507,589.94
Unearned Bond Discount		1,901,114.91
Other Liabilities		463,059.84
Total Liabilities	P	1,018,445,253.94
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	328,022,880.00
Retained Earnings		176,907,676.31
Total Stockholders' Equity	P	504,930,556.31
Total Liabilities & Stockholders' Equity	P	1,523,375,810.25

(This Synopsis, prepared from the 2000 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code of 1978, as amended)

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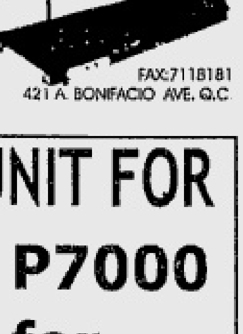

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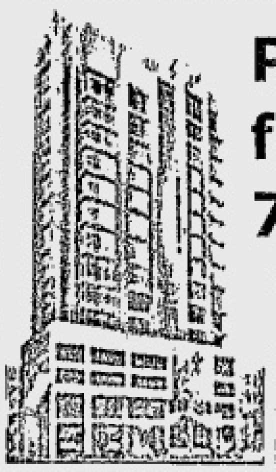

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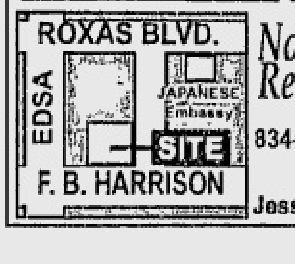

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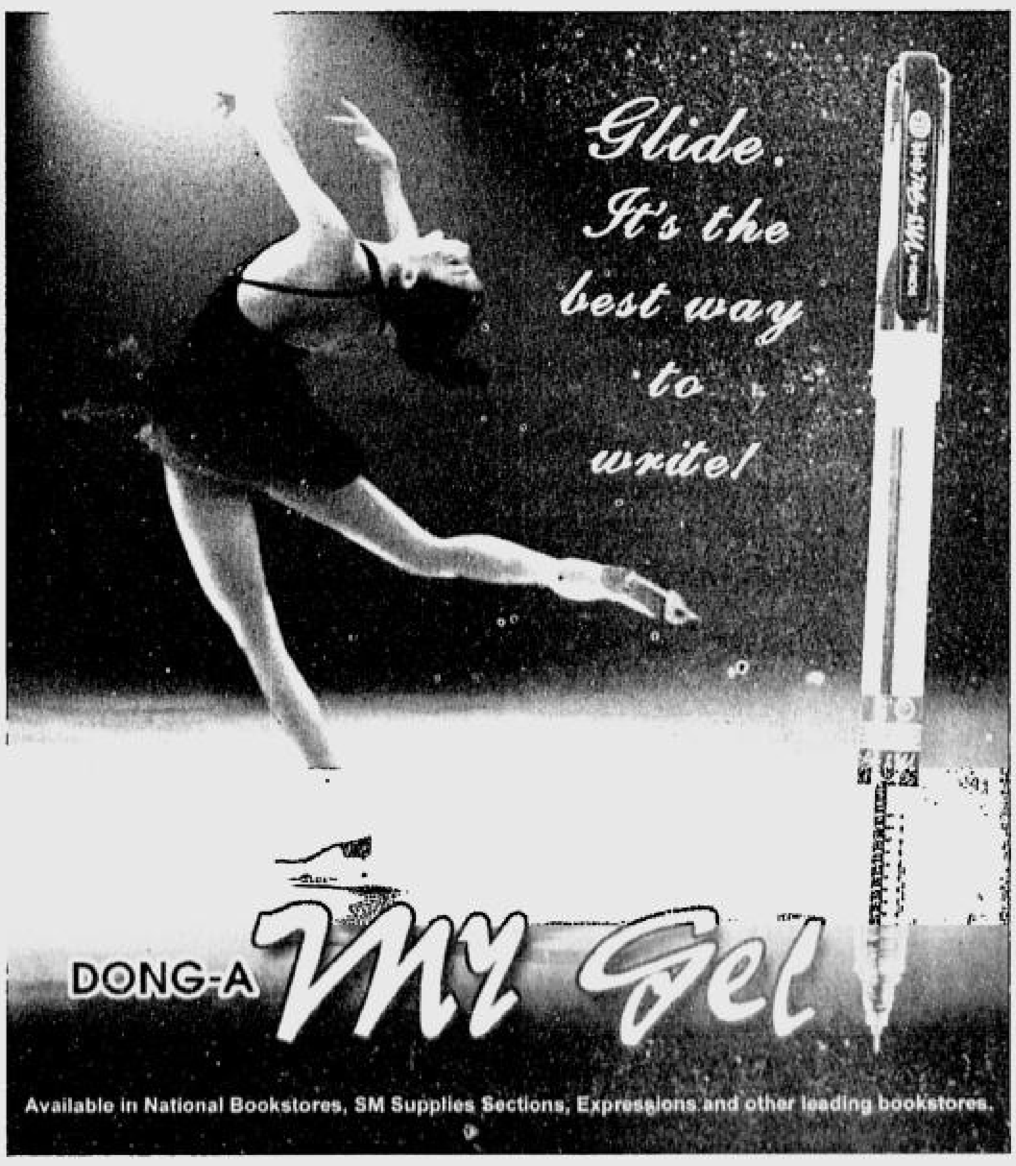

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FirstPac issues $115M in bonds

By Abigail L. Ho

HONG KONG-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. issued last July 29 $115 million worth of secured bonds through wholly owned subsidiary CAB Holdings Ltd.

The company said in a statement yesterday that the net proceeds of the bond issuance would be used to prepay $103 million of secured debts owed the Hong Kong branch of ING Bank BV, which would fall due in December this year.

The remaining amount would be placed in an escrow bank account that would fund interest payments on the bonds "and may not be used for any other purpose without the consent of the security trustee appointed in respect of the bonds."

The three-year bonds have an interest rate of 8.25 percent per year.

Under the terms of the bond, CAB does not have the right to unilaterally redeem bonds before their maturity, except if there are certain changes affecting taxes in Mauritius where CAB is incorporated.

The bonds are secured by a pledge over shares representing a 51.5-percent interest in PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk held by CAB and security over the escrow account.

An aggregate 51.6-percent interest in Indofood by First Pacific and its subsidiaries were earlier pledged as security for the ING debt.

The bonds were privately placed to institutional and other professional investors, mostly in Asia, by issue manager UBS Limited.

"The issue of the bonds and the full prepayment of the indebtedness owing to ING has lengthened the maturity profile of First Pacific's head office indebtedness, which do not have any material impact to its net indebtedness position," First Pacific said.

SGI to invest in bonds

By Doris C. Dumlao

SOLID Group Inc., which used to manufacture consumer electronics for Japanese brands Sony and Aiwa, plans to invest 20 percent of its cash hoard of about P1.75 billion in foreign currency-denominated bonds.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SGI said it would acquire a wholly owned offshore subsidiary "to handle and manage the placement of its investible funds in foreign currency fixed-income assets, principally bonds."

The move was prompted by the drop in the interest income from its P1.75-billion cash on hand as of 2002, which was attributed to the continued decline in local interest rates since last year.

SEC eyes power to resolve independent director feuds

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has drafted a rule giving itself the authority to resolve any disputes on the election of independent directors that would sit on the boards of publicly held companies or of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

According to the proposed amendment to the implementing rules and regulations of the Securities Regulation Code: "Any controversy or issue arising from the selection, nomination or election of independent directors shall be resolved by the commission by appointing independent directors from the list of nominees submitted by the stockholders."

The proposed amendment to the IRR would be presented to the public for comments shortly.

"When we decide (on independent directors) there must be a hearing. If it cannot be resolved in the hearing we will create a committee to select," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters yesterday.

The committee would consist of one representative each from the SEC, the Department of Finance and from the industry of the company involved.

Under the SRC, the board of a publicly held company must have at least two independent directors or a number equivalent to 20 percent of the board seats, whichever is less.

The board of an exchange, on the other hand, must have at least 51 percent of its board seats occupied by independent directors.

It may be recalled that the group of broker Filomeno Francisco of AB Capital Securities, who ran for chairperson of the PSE, questioned the election of the board and the selection of four non-broker independent nominees who were seen to side with Alicia Arroyo, who later won as PSE chair.

Asiatrust chair, 6 others charged with estafa

SEVERAL officers of thrift bank Asiatrust Bank were recently sued by a client for alleged estafa before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court.

The estafa charges were filed against Asiatrust chair Gloria Garcia, president Dionisio Ong, and several members of its trust group trust committee including Raul Boncan, Redendor Guerrero, Delma Landingin, Greg Aldave and Jose Unson.

The charges were filed by Maria Anna de Ocampo who claimed the bank deliberately misled her on the investment of some P20 million of her funds in Oriental Motolite Inc., a subsidiary of the Ramcar group, which eventually defaulted on its loan obligations with its banks.

According to De Ocampo, Asiatrust allegedly rolled over her placements without the required written consent on Sept. 21, 2001. She pointed out that Ramcar had earlier already defaulted on its payments to creditor banks on Sept. 15 of the same year, after which a debt moratorium was declared by the company.

"Despite its knowledge on Sept. 15 that Ramcar was already in default ... and was therefore an extremely unsound and unwise investment, all the respondent officers knowingly, fraudulently and unlawfully reinvested our second trust deposit in Ramcor on 21 September 2001," the complaint said.

De Ocampo also charged that Asiatrust acted without a written consent when it reinvested her funds into Oriental Motolite Corp. She said subsections 1409.2 and 1409.3 of the BSP Manual of Rules and Regulations require such written consent for the roll-over of placements in trust accounts.

"The deceit and fraud was made worse by the fact that the reinvestment of our funds in Ramcar after it defaulted was done by the respondent officers without our knowledge and consent, and despite their knowledge of my intention to pull out the funds upon maturity," the complaint said.

She also claimed in her complaint before the court that Ong "failed and refused, and continues to fail and refuse, to return our funds deposited in trust with the ATB Trust Group."

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Asiatrust president Dionisio Ong has said that he was standing by the decision of the bank to put the De Ocampos' funds in Oriental Motolite at that time.

"No bank could have anticipated when Ramcar group would default," Ong says, noting that a consortium of big banks—including Citibank, RCBC, Equitable PCI—even released P1 billion in fresh loans to the group in April 2001 or five months before the default.

Ong claimed that Asiatrust had no clue that the Ramcar group was about to collapse at that time.

Asiatrust officials also explained that the De Ocampos signed a directed trust agreement, which only required the trustee to make a full disclosure of the investment outlet.

"The report on investment was prepared and acknowledged by investors. The ROI shows the borrower's name, principal amount, value date, maturity date and expected rate," he said.

A three-part approach to agricultural success

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

THERE are two couples who have significantly helped small farmers. One is Drs. Rose and Edwin Hondrade. They are key leaders of *Pagkain Para sa Masa*, one of the most successful agricultural programs for poor farmers. With an investment of only P3.5 million, they produced a return equivalent to P87.5 million. This was in terms of two added meals a day for each member of 5,000 families who had previously eaten only one meal a day. A large part of this program involved the propagation of root crops. Rose said, "This part was very successful largely because of the pioneering research and extension work of the Visayan State College of Agriculture (ViSCA) under the leadership of Dr. Fernando Bernardo."

Bernardo was the ViSCA president and former deputy head of the International Rice Research Institute. The other member of this illustrious couple is Dr. Emiliana Bernardo, former UPLB vice chancellor who recently served on the Scientific Technical Research Panel that reviewed the BT corn issue. She impressed many by her willingness to review the negative information that had not been previously been shown to the panel, even though the panel had already given a positive evaluation of BT corn.

The link between the two couples is the sweet potato component of the *Pagkain Para sa Masa* program. I myself was a beneficiary of this sweet potato breakthrough. Instead of the average five tons per hectare average yield of sweet potato, I used ViSCA's seedlings and got 25 tons. For an additional P3,300 investment for these seedlings, I received an additional income of P40,000.

This could not have been possible without the innovative three-part approach used by Bernardo and ViSCA: needs-based planning, a comprehensive view of curriculum development, and coordinated research and extension.

Planning

Three volumes of the ViSCA five-year development plan were formulated within only three months by a handful of Ph.D. and M.S. holders:

1. The ViSCA Development Goals and Plans;
2. Achieving Relevance through Innovative Curriculum Programs and Non-Formal Education
3. Research and Extension for Regional and Agricultural Development

Aside from formulating a written blueprint that stakeholders participated in and were committed to, there was much emphasis given to relevance and creativity. A thorough analysis was made of the existing conditions and actual needs of the community, after which a creative orientation encouraged new and effective solutions. This is the exact opposite of the ivory tower approach sometimes taken by agricultural colleges and other agricultural development organizations.

Curriculum development

Bernardo said, "curriculum development involves improvement of courses and the quality and material of instruction, the upgrading of staff, facilities improvement, student counseling, library development and budgeting. Without this comprehensive view of curriculum development, efforts executed in this area would be nothing more than an academic exercise."

In staff upgrading and development, Bernardo put a premium on transparent recruitment and performance-based rewards. The transparency would minimize the "connections" path to recruitment. Bernardo added, "ViSCA as well as other state universities and colleges (SUCs) have instructors with permanent appointments who are hopelessly dead logs. They should hire teaching fellows on a part-time basis. The best teaching fellows when they finish graduate work may then be appointed instructors."

Research and extension

ViSCA focuses its research on the title of its five-year development plan, "For the Small Visayan Farmers." The research is done not only for publication but even more for extension to help the small farmers. Aside from the lack of coordination that often happens between research and extension, Bernardo cited two other potential problems that needed to be addressed: (1) the faculty being overloaded with teaching work with little time for research and extension, and (2) the ViSCA staff doing extension work without coordinating with the Local Government Unit that has the primary responsibility for this, resulting in confusion and even conflict.

These problems are also found among government agency and nongovernment organization personnel, who are often similarly overloaded with extraneous paperwork, endless meetings and low priority ceremonial functions. They therefore sometimes neglect their main objective of helping small farmers as well as fail to coordinate their activities with LGU personnel.

Conclusion

The research and extension breakthrough which increased the average sweet potato yield fivefold with a minimum investment cost would not have happened without the three-part approach used by ViSCA described earlier.

Last year, in every province, relevant agricultural SUCs such as ViSCA joined the DA, the LGUs, and other agricultural stakeholders in a three-day live-in workshop to promote agricultural development in their respective provinces. It is hoped that this be done again this year, with special attention given to the lessons learned from ViSCA.

These lessons can be applied not only to agricultural colleges but also to government agencies and NGOs—a plan based on actual needs that emphasizes relevance and creativity; a comprehensive view of program development that includes transparent selection procedures and performance-based rewards, and coordinated research and extension done with the LGU personnel who have the primary responsibility for agricultural development in our country.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former undersecretary of the DA and DTI and chair/secretary, Presidential Flagship Programs and Project. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

INTEREST RATES

July 31, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 31-Jul-03	MART1 30-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2481	6.1982
3 Months	6.2589	6.2946
6 Months	6.9946	7.0286
1 Year	7.4357	7.425
2 Years	8.9423	8.8712
3 Years	9.7661	9.735
4 Years	10.2464	10.176
5 Years	10.4804	10.4267
7 Years	11.3096	11.1821
10 Years	11.5804	11.51
20 Years	12.0732	12.035
25 Years	12.3589	12.335

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 31, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	19	18.5	19	317,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	46	46	361,100
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15.25	15	15.25	4,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	34	32.5	34	1,284,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29	29.5	602,900
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	85	85	85	85	400
Philippine National Bank	25	25	25	25	46,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	131,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23.5	23	23.5	121,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1560	1580	1560	1580	140
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	100,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1150	1150	1145	1145	3,990
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20.5	20	20.25	14,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.68	5,800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	670	650	665	31,630
Ipeople Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.055	7,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.035	0.033	0.034	29,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.56	6,900,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	530	505	530	286,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	80,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	12,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	666,500
Manila Electric Co. B	17.25	18.25	17.25	18	2,188,800
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.04	2.04	4,635,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	290,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	700,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	210,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	10,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	27,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	18,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	465,500
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52.5	53	52	53	84,500
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62.5	220,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	190,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	20,000
Ayala Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.6	4.6	5,580,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	6,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	160,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	24,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.8	1.86	53,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.69	0.71	0.66	0.68	24,420,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	390,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	360,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.32	7,600,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16	16.25	15.75	15.75	1,182,300
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	220,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.56	1.56	494,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1,028,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	2,760,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	6,660,000
Music Corp.	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.38	3,870,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	4,210,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.205	0.25	0.2	0.22	2,890,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,570,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	1,080,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	2.38	2.4	2.38	2.4	93,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.32	1.5	1.32	1.5	94,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.095	0.095	3,960,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16	16	16	16	63,200
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.58	3,330,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	20	20.5	20	20.25	283,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	19,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10	10	10	10	16,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10	10	10	10	14,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	16,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	7,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0024	0.0024	0.0022	0.0022	12,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	3,511,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	511,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	1,140,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.24	2,970,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	10,191,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.18	2.12	2.16	910,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	580,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	101,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	2,420,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	4,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	4,463,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.7	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	29,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0036	0.0036	53,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	35,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	580,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	4,400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0032	0.0034	54,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000

DISCLOSURES

THE RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. will hold its special stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12, 4 p.m. at the Antonio delas Alas Executive Dining Hall, 47/F of Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 15 would be entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

THE BOARD of Vivant Corp. has set Aug. 30 as record date for stockholders entitled to vote at the annual stockholders' meeting of the company set for Sept. 25.

* * *

MANILA Mining Corp. disclosed the retirement of Artemio Disini as president of the company. He would continue to serve the company as director.

* * *

SUN Life Financial Inc. declared a quarterly cash dividend of C$0.17 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 27 and would be payable on Sept. 30.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Anglo Philippine Holdings Corp. were Alfredo Ramos, Christopher Gotanco, Francisco Navarro, Presentacion Ramos, Iluminada Rodriguez, Augusto Sunico, Maximo Licauco III, Patrick Caoile, Roberto San Jose, Noel del Castillo and Victor Benavidez.

* * *

DEXTER Tiu has resigned as director of iVantage Corp.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Pryce Corp. were Salvador Escaño, Fernando Trinidad, Rafael Escaño, Antonio Escaño, Efren Palma, Simeon Umandal and Roland Joey de Lara. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

July 31, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.881290	1.000000	54 689000
Japan	Yen	0.007328	0.008315	0.454700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.424341	1 616200	88 388400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.113002	0.128223	7.012400
Switzerland	Franc	0.645530	0.732493	40 059300
Canada	Dollar	0.629628	0.714439	39.072000
Singapore	Dollar	0.501588	0.569152	31.126400
Australia	Dollar	0.576195	0.653808	35 756100
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.337702	2 652590	145 067500
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.235011	0.266667	14.583800
Brunei	Dollar	0.500165	0 567537	31.038000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020969	0.023793	1.301200
UAE	Dirham	0.239944	0.272264	14 889800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.134700	62 055600
Argentina	Peso	0.305473	0.346620	18 956300
Brazil	Real	0.299861	0.340252	18 608000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134667	0.152807	8.356900
India	Rupee	0.019138	0.021716	1.187600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0 231949	0.263193	14.393800
Mexico	New Peso	0.084189	0.095529	5 224400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514051	0 583294	31 899800
Norway	Kroner	0.122279	0 138750	7 588100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015313	0 017376	0 950300
South Africa	Rand	0.119659	0 135777	7 425500
Korea	Won	0.000747	0 000848	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0 109080	0 123773	6 769000
Syria	Pound	0.020984	0.023810	1 302100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025694	0.029155	1 594500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000553	0 000627	0 034300

NATIONAL LIFE

Celebrating 70 years of strength, stability, and outstanding service

Message

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

*My esteemed greeting goes to the **National Life Insurance Company** as you celebrate your 70th Anniversary*

Your company has been an integral part of the lives of many Filipinos during the last seventy years. It has provided financial security and stability, not only in terms of insurance, but also in terms of investment and management.

Thus, I congratulate all the men and women of the National Life Insurance Company for helping our kababayans prepare for their future through prudent fund investment. You have not only advanced the interest of your company, but more importantly, endowed our country with a brighter tomorrow by spurring capital formation.

I urge you to continue to join me in promoting the welfare of the Filipino, especially the poor and the disadvantaged.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GMArroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Message

NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
of the Philippines The Reliable Partner SINCE

National Life Insurance Company had indeed been greatly blessed throughout the past seventy years. We have been blessed with dedicated men and women -- our directors, officers and staff; with persevering and productive agents; and more importantly, with loyal and trusting clients and policyholders.

It is noteworthy to mention that the basic structure established seventy years ago, in support of our fundamental policy of providing a secure future for our policyholders and their families by safeguarding their interests at all times, has withstood the test of time and circumstance; and that structure still stands as the foundation of our ongoing program to improve and enhance the service we are offering to all our policyholders.

There is a saying that goes, "the future will take care of itself." At National Life, we say: "Let us take care of your future." Let us move forward in our partnership for a better future for our children and our families, and for our country. Please join us in offering this day, our 70th Anniversary, in thanksgiving to Him who has been the source of our stability and strength.

Benjamin L. De Leon
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
INSURANCE COMMISSION

As the Insurance Commissioner who saw National Life Insurance Company's phenomenal success during the last few years, I salute and congratulate the company for its outstanding performance even during the most trying periods in its history.

Many of the other companies, which ventured into insurance, are no longer around today, National Life's 70 years is not only a longevity record; it is a testimony and proof that a well-managed company which cares for people is bound to succeed. During its 70 years of existence, National Life has helped thousands of Filipinos -- especially during times of economic dislocation and financial need. The company has gained the respect of its various publics by delivering on its promises and by lending a helping hand during times of stress.

I wish National Life many more years of success and leadership in the insurance industry!

Eduardo T. Malinis
Insurance Commissioner

We have been around longer than most other companies in the insurance and financial services industry. We've enjoyed the best of times. We've also weathered the worst of times: a world war, political upheavals, and economic crises.

Through the good and bad times, we manage to continuously and promptly serve the needs of our clients. In fact, when Manila was declared an open city during the early part of World War II, we continued servicing the needs of our policyholders -- providing loans and claims settlement to help ease the wounds of war.

Today, our service remains the best in the industry. With the increasing confidence and trust in the integrity and stability of National Life, our Termplus Benefits work not only for the interests and welfare of our policyholders but also of our productive field force.

TOP ACHIVERS
TRIP TO SINGAPORE SALES DRIVE

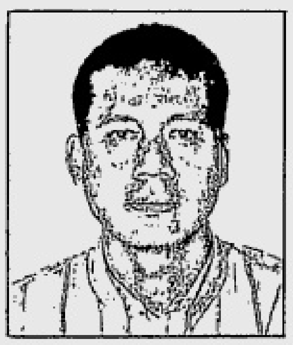
RAYMOND A. GUINA
CAIMITO - New Business Agency
Metro Manila

MA. JOSEPHINE V. COLLADA
LANGKA - New Business Agency
Legaspi City

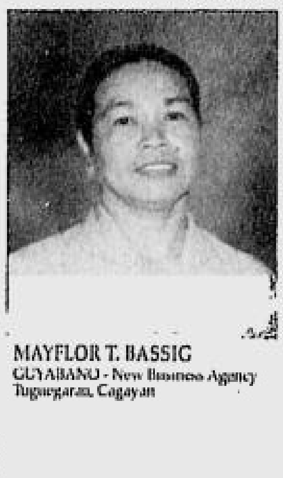
RECTOR P. RAMOS
DURIAN - New Business Agency
Metro Manila

MA. DAISY D. SERNEO
DURIAN - New Business Agency
Metro Manila

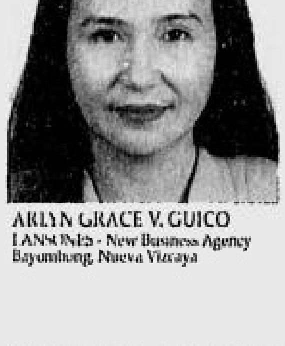
EDEN R. MOLL
LANGKA - New Business Agency
Legaspi City



ALEJANDRO C. MANGULABNAN
Home Office - Direct
Cebu City



MAYFLOR T. BASSIG
GUYABANO - New Business Agency
Tuguegarao, Cagayan



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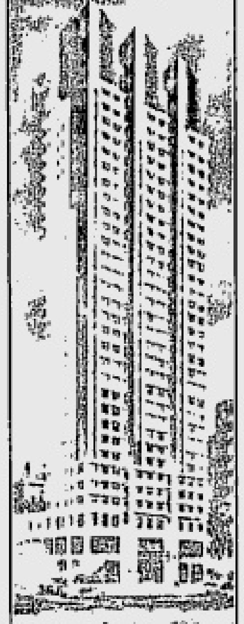

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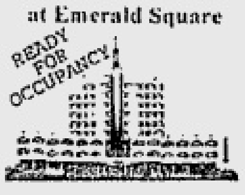

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QUEZON CITY

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CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

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CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 5567685

1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of MERCY B. CATUBIG executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate with waiver of rights duly acknowledged before notary public Patricia Marie De Guzman in Makati City Phils. as Doc 109, Page 22, Book II, Series of 2003 (PDI-July 18,25&Aug.1 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Sps. Fortunato and Soledad Pauso located at San Juan, M.M. has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc. No. 210, Page No. 42, Book No. 54, Series of 2003 by Notary Public Ana R. Garcia of San Juan, M.M. (PDI-August 1, 8 and 15, 2003)

AN IMPORTER URGENTLY NEEDS THE FF:

A. ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

M/F, 40 y/o below, coll. grad. of any busines course, at least 3 years sales & marketing experience in the automotive and motorcycle tyre industry, excellent communication skills & willing to travel extensively nationwide, computer literate.

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Please send resumé with 2x2 photo & transcript to:

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Tel: 724-1798; 724-1805

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – NCR
DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Tala, Caloocan City

July 24, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital invites responsible and duly accredited suppliers from DOH/CHD-NCR to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of the following items:

A. DRUGS AND MEDICINES
B. MEDICAL SUPPLIES
C. LABORATORY SUPPLIES
D. JANITORIAL SUPPLIES
E. GROCERY PRODUCTS
F. POULTRY AND EGGS
G. FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
H. FISH AND OTHER SEAFOODS
I. BAKERY PRODUCTS

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

Issuance of Bid Documents:	August 4-15, 2003 (8:00 am-12:00 pm)
Pre-Bid Conference:	
Items A,B,C, & D	August 15, 2003 (9:30 am)
Items E,F,G,H & I	August 15, 2003 (1:30 pm)
Submission and Opening of Bids:	
Items A,B,C, & D	August 25, 2003 (1:30 pm)
Items E,F,G,H, & I	August 26, 2003 (1:30 pm)

Prospective bidders may secure bid proposal forms from the BAC Secretary, Administrative Office, Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of (P300.00) THREE HUNDRED PESOS.

All activities shall be held at the Training Room, Dr. Jose N Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Tala, Caloocan City, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must accompanied by a bidder's bond in the form of a certified check, manager's check, or GSIS Bond in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

The Approved Budget Cost is stated on the bid tender documents.

For further inquiries, interested bidders may contact the BAC Secretary or call telephone no. 962-9865.

DR. JNRMH reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to notice of award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidders of the grounds for the hospital's action

(Sgd.) CECILIA A. GARGUEÑA, M.D.
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–July 25 & Aug. 1, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE THAT HEIRS OF OSCAR BASCO ESCOBAR EXECUTED EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF HIS ESTATE DATED MAR. 16, 2003 PER DOC 301, PAGE 66 BOOK 2 SERIES OF 2003 ACKNOWLEDGED BY CHERYLL JUNE M. CALAGUIO OF PASIG CITY (PDI - Aug. 1, 8 & 15, 2003)

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KODAK KODAMATIC 860 VS Film Processor (2000)
IWATSU ELEFAX LP501 C2 A3 Plate Maker (2001) with CPU, Monitor and
IWATSU ELEFAX HP 420 Plate Printer

AGFA GEVAERT REPROMASTER 3500 Plate Camera (1989), OMEGA SUPER CHROMEGA D DICHROIC II Plate Camera, BACHER CONTROL FAVORIT TYPE 1530 Co-Ordinate Measuring Light Table, 1500mm x 1100 mm (1984), CANON MODEL 800 Colour Laser Copier with CANON COLORPASS 450C CPU & ACGLVIEW 76 Monitor (1997), LINOTRONIC 200P Laser Image Setter (1989), SHARP SF 9800 Photocopier with document sorter, AGFA FOCUS COLOR PLUS Scanner, AGFA RAPIDLINE 66-3 SP Film Processors (1994, 2 Off), NUARC Film Developing and Plate Sinks (6 Off), MARRUTT 3 Way Darkroom Door, NUARC NL 43 NULINE IMAGING SYSTEM Exposure Machine (1994) with SMARTONE SM2100 Controls, AGFA GEVAERT DUPLIPHOT HS 130 Exposure Machine, IWATSU ELEFAX RM 383 Plate Maker (1991), HOHNER ACCORD 25/40 Stitching Machine, AGFA RAPIFLEX 51 Film Processor (1996)

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Bidding for F & B Concessions

Alabang Country Club, Inc. will bid out all F & B outlets. Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification forms from the office of the General Manager.

FACTS

1. ACCI will undertake a 3-year rehabilitation program of its main Clubhouse with an outlay of P70 million.
2. Due to pressing demand for new badminton courts, a P10 million structure will be added to the racquet sports complex.
3. In order to improve F & B services, the club is spending P8 million to completely renovate the main kitchen, from walk-in freezers to drainage and ventilation. Completion is expected on August 31, 2003.
4. Locker Rooms for Men and Ladies are undergoing renovation.

STATISTIC

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the year 2002 Php 50.4 million.

Gross Receipts from all F & B outlets for the 5 months in 2003 Php 20.3 million.

SCHEDULE

Pre-qualification Forms Availability : Starting August 01, 2003
Submission of Pre-qualification Papers : August 22, 2003
Pre-Bid Conference : August 29, 2003
Submission of Bids : September 05, 2003

Bidders may bid only for F & B outlets within their range of financial and organizational resources.

For particulars, please call up the office of the General Manager at Tel. Nos. 842-3530 local 160 or 807-0335.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Office of the Ombudsman is inviting prospective bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the supply and delivery of:

- 01 - unit Sports Utility Vehicle, 3.0 ltr., Diesel, 4 x 2

Accreditation requirement and bidding documents may be secured from the Property Section / General Services Division, 2nd Floor, Office of the Ombudsman, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING

1. Pre-bid Conference: – 06 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Date of Submission:
   a. Pre-qualification Requirement – 11 August 2003 until 4:00 p.m.
   b. Technical & Financial Proposal – 20 August 2003 at 9:30 a.m.
3. Opening of Bids: (Technical & Financial Proposal) – 20 August 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00).

The Financial Proposal shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond either in the form of GSIS Bond, Cashier's/Manager's Check and/or Cash Bond of at least 2.5% of the total bid price.

The Office of the Ombudsman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the most advantageous to the office.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ERNESTO M. NOCOS
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 30, 31 & August 1, 2003)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

**CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LRT LINE 1 SYSTEM
Approved Budget for the Contract from Corporate Funds: PhP 410,400,000.00
Contract Duration: Two (2) Years**

Bid Documents can be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Building, LRTA Compound, Aurora Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila during regular office hours on **August 7 & 8, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND (P15,000.00) PESOS**. Interested Bidders which have purchased the Bid Documents issued in March 2003 and during the period July 2-4, 2003 are exempted from said payment.

Site inspection will be held in the morning of **August 11, 2003.** For purposes of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **August 11, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the above address. Deadline for the submission of documents for eligibility/prequalification shall be on **August 21, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. The BAC Secretariat shall receive sealed bids from eligible/pre-qualified Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m. **September 5, 2003** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

The determination of eligibility shall be based on the non-discretionary "Pass-Fail" criteria concerning requirements on experience, personnel capability, financial capacity, as well as formality and completeness of submitted documents.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the Bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid, and will entertain only such bid established to be most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) EVANGELINE M. RAZON
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 1 & 7, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
College, Laguna

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of **Laboratory Equipment** for Chemical Engineering (CE) and Electrical Engineering (EE) with approved budget of P3.4M and 3.6M respectively.

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO).

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

Particulars	Date/Time	Place
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 7-14 / 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 a.m.	SPMO
Pre-Bid Conference	Aug. 15, 2003, Fri. / 10:00 a.m.	SPMO
Opening / Submission of Bids	Sept. 5, 2003, Fri. / 10:00 a.m.	SPMO

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts. Catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.) and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Supply and Property Management Office, UPLB.

The UPLB reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the UPLB. The UPLB likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) TERESITA M. ESPINO
Chair, BAC

(PDI – August 1 & 8, 2003)

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Meycauayan Water District (MWD) is inviting interested contractors, having a valid PCAB license, to pre-qualify and participate in the bidding for the following projects:

1. St. Francis Well Drilling Project – Supply of labor, tools, materials and equipment for the drilling of one (1) unit production deepwell 350 mm telescopic to 250 mm with a depth of 305 mbgl using mud rotary method, Q=24 lps. Materials shall be Spiral and ERW B.I. pipes schedule 40.
2. Pantok Pipelaying Project – Supply of labor, tools, equipment and materials for the laying of approximately 2.40 km uPVC pipelines with pipe diameter ranging from 75 mm to 150 mm, including pipe appurtenances.

Mode of payment for the pipelaying projects will be 36 equal monthly payments, commencing 6 months after completion and acceptance of the project, with a minimal mobilization fee and 12 equal monthly payments for the deepwell construction.

Interested contractors may personally obtain pre-qualification forms at a nominal non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PBAC Secretariat, MWD Main Office, Poblacion, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Deadline of submission of Pre-C Forms	August 18, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	To be announced later
Pre-Bid Conference	To be announced later
Submission of Bids	To be announced later

No Pre-C documents shall be accepted after the stipulated deadline for the submission as stated above. All applicant contractors shall be notified in writing after the status of Pre-C evaluation. Only pre-qualified contractors will be eligible to submit bids.

The MWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the PBAC, is the most advantageous to the MWD.

PBAC Chairman

(PDI – August 1, 3 & 5, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites **G-EPS** registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **IT Requirements for the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Computerization Project.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P55,241,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-bid Conference** that will be held on **AUGUST 7, 2003, 9:30 A.M., THURSDAY**, at the **PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **July 25, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the **Office of the Operations Manager** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **AUGUST 21, 2003** at **9:30 A.M., THURSDAY.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 561-60-98 or 563-94-02.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – July 28 & Aug. 1, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
Office of the Vice-President for Administration

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines System hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the bidding of:

   Multimedia projectors, computer workstations and servers, and switches

   Detailed specifications will be indicated in the bidding documents.

B. The following pre-qualification requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the System Supply and Property Management Office (SSPMO), Administration Building, Quezon Hall, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis in evaluating and assessing prospective bidders:

   1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
   2. Year 2003 Business License/Permit
   3. Income Tax Return for the last 3 years (2000-2002)
   4. Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years (2000-2002)
   5. Highest purchase order served

C. Deadline for submission: August 15, 2003

D. Bidding schedule will be announced to all pre-qualified bidders only.

E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the Univesity.

F. For further particulars, please inquire from the OIC, SSPMO, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call 926-4919.

(Sgd.) MARTIN V. GREGORIO
Vice-President for Administration

(PDI – August 1 & 8, 2003)

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HACIENDA GERVASIA JOINS WOFEX 2003

Hacienda Gervasia joins and supports World's Food Expo (Wofex) 2003. Specializing in bangus sausages, Hacienda Gervasia brings brings to World's Food Expo healthier alternatives to our local, traditional, meat products. Gathering the best food and beverage products worldwide, World's Food Expo 2003 will be held from Aug. 6 to 9 at the World Trade Center. Co-located events of this year's World's Food Expo are the Bakers' Fair, Foodmach Expo, World Food Summit and the Taste Expo, which will be featuring two major culinary competitions. For more information, log on to www.worldsfoodexpo.com or call Premier Events Plus Group Inc. at 436-4711-12, 929-7963 or 93 or 436-4898. Shown from left are Boydee Dizon, PEPGroup chair; Kirk Arambulo, Hacienda Gervasia GM and engineer Joel Pascual, PEPGroup president.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2003

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31st Death Anniversary

Don ONOFRE BATALLONES, SR.

18 December 1910 – 09 July 1972

3rd Death Anniversary

Doña JUANA OÑATE BATALLONES

08 February 1911 – 01 August 2000

of 530 Niugan, Cabuyao, Laguna

Their children and grandchildren

Fiscal Loreto Masa and Aida Batallones Masa (†)
Alvin & Maricel Aguillo,
kids Anthony Loreso & Nicole
Michael & Lissette, Baby Myk Timothy
Marvin and Apple, JM & Ella

Onofre Jr. and Cenem Batallones
Lemuel & Rowena,
kids Louisse & Josh Bryan
Liezle Ann & Lauren

Monico and Celerina Daluraya
Robert & Joy, kids Jaylin Rose & Baby Sofia Amani
Randy & Shiela Ner, Baby Jordan

Jaime and Delia Batallones
Lyle & Joan Herbosa, Baby Juliana
Joy Therese & Jaime Onofre

Harry and Nenita Retizos
Happy & Peachy

and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember ONOFRE, SR. and JUANA in their prayers

Masses will be offered on August 01, 2003 at the following:

St. Policarp Parish Church, Poblacion, Cabuyao, Laguna	*6:00 a.m.*
St. Francis de Assisi Parish Church, Pulo, Cabuyao, Laguna	*6:00 p.m.*
St. Rose of Lima Parish Church, Poblacion, Sta. Rosa, Laguna	*6:00 a.m.*

MERCEDES RIGUNAY GARLITOS

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 30, 2003
at the age of 75.

Her bereaved husband **LUIS**; children **MA. VICTORIA** (†), **LUIS, JR. & ALITA, MA. FELICIA & ARCHIE, RICA & REGINALD**; grandchildren **LUIS III, JOHN FREDERICK, REGINA, TERENCE** and **TIMOTHY**; sisters **JOSEFA & CATALINA**; brothers- & sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine on Broadway St., New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, August 3, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9 a.m. Mass.

ELLA ROSARIO MACASAET DELOVINO-FERNANDEZ

Assistant City Prosecutor - Makati City

Joined her Creator on July 28, 2003
at the age of 46.

Her bereaved husband, PNP Officer **Demosthenes Fernandez**, son **Christian Demy**, mother **Alejandra Macasaet vda de Delovino**, sisters **Raquel Elvira Delovino-Malimas, M.D., Carmelita Delovino-Lista, Maria Corazon Delovino-Marabut**, brother **Mansueto M. Delovino**, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Viejo, Makati City. Interment will be announced later.

God wanted you now
He has set you free

ENGR. PAULO MOLAS RUIZ

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 29, 2003 at the age of 46.

His loving wife **Myrna**, and daughter **Patricia**; his mother **Mercedes**; his sisters and brothers **Bong** and **Sonny**, **Ces** and **Adel**, **Totti** and **Pinky**, his nieces and nephews and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 1747 Basilio St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Interment will be announced later.

Paulo, we hold you
dear in our hearts

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Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
FELIPE C. CRUZ	AUGUST 2, 2003	2:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	#3 Gumamela St., De Castro, Pasig City
ROQUE M. MALLANAO	AUGUST 3, 2003	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	Holy Gardens Memorial Chapel A, Angono, Rizal

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Our Beloved

Chief Engr. Aniceto M. Vivas Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord on
July 30, 2003 at the age of 64.

We, the family request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 2, 2003 at 10:00 in the morning.

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

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5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 BAD BOYS II
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2 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30
Onstage
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GB3 GREENBELT 3
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GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DOWN WITH LOVE 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 BAD BOYS II - 12:00
GUARANTEED SEATS 4 BAD BOYS II 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20
GUARANTEED SEATS BULLETPROOF MONK 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45, 12:00

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5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7 BULLETPROOF MONK
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 BAD BOYS 2
10 WILD BUTTERFLY

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7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 TERMINATOR 3
9 BANGKOK HAUNTED
10 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
11 MASAMANG UGAT
12 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY MANILA
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1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 BANGKOK HAUNTED
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 TERMINATOR 3
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11 DOWN WITH LOVE
12 DARK WATER

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2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
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4 TERMINATOR 3
5 DARK WATER
6 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 BULLETPROOF MONK
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 BANGKOK HAUNTED
12 THE HUNTED

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 DARK WATER
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 DARK WATER
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

SM CITY CEBU
2313676
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DEATH WATCH
6 JACKASS THE MOVIE
7 TERMINATOR 3
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 IMPOSTOR
2 RESERVED
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 DOWN WITH LOVE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 JACKASS THE MOVIE
7 RESERVED
8 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BANGKOK HAUNTED
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
5 DOWN WITH LOVE
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 BAD BOYS 2
2 JACKASS THE MOVIE
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM BICUTAN
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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1 BAD BOYS 2
2 MUNTING TINIG
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4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
10:05 FS/10:20 MF/12:40/3:00/5:20/7:40/
9:40 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00 END

BAD BOYS 2
10:05 FS/10:20 MF/1:15/4:10/7:05/
9:40 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:35 END

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3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 9:50
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
8 TERMINATOR 3 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
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4 TOMB RAIDER - 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50
5 DARK WATER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BULLET PROOF MONK - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
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6 TOMB RAIDER 2
7 DOWN WITH LOVE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

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5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

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Tire manufacturers seek gov't help vs cheap imports

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL tire manufacturers are prodding the government to ask the World Trade Organization to look into the possible granting of huge subsidies by the governments of Indonesia, China and India to their tire exporters.

The Tire Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (TMAP) said the "very low" cost of tires from these countries could indicate their governments were breaching the principle of fair trade under the WTO through the granting of export subsidies.

Bernardo de Pedro, TMAP executive director, said in an interview that imported truck tires from China were valued at only $10 each; India, $25; and Indonesia, $39. He said these prices were even lower than the cost of raw materials in the international market which was pegged at $79. He added that the prices of imported tires even included accessories, such as inner tube and flap.

"This is the reason our industry is badly hurt by imports coming from those countries. How can they price their products at levels even lower than the cost of raw materials?" De Pedro asked.

He said the tough competition with imported tires was threatening the viability of the two remaining tire manufacturers in the country—Goodyear Philippines and Yokohama. He said the industry might soon depend solely on imported tires if the problems the industry faces were not immediately resolved.

Due to huge losses, local tire manufacturing firms that have closed down included Philtread Tire and Rubber Corp. (maker of Firestone) in 1994; Sime Darby Pilipinas, 1996; MSF Tire and Rubber Corp. (maker of BF Goodrich), 2002, and the Marikina plant of Goodyear Philippines, early this year.

De Pedro also said that from 68 percent in 1998, the market share of local tires has shrunk to only 32 percent last year due to the surge in cheap tire imports.

De Pedro said the group has also petitioned the Bureau of Customs to act on the alleged undervaluation of tires coming from Indonesia and China. He said export values of tires from China, based on reports from commercial attachés, were pegged at $59, or much higher than their $10 selling price here.

De Pedro said that while the report on the export value of tires from China were already made available since last month, the customs bureau has yet to issue a revision order of the valuation of the imported tires. "Despite documents presented, they (BOC) are still using as a basis the $10 price for the valuation of tires (from China)," he said.

TMAP has also questioned the $39 cost of Indonesian tires which he said has not changed since 1998. Considering the increase in the cost of raw materials since 1998, De Pedro said he was curious why Indonesian tires have kept their price at $39 each.

Glass makers back Asahi bid for protection

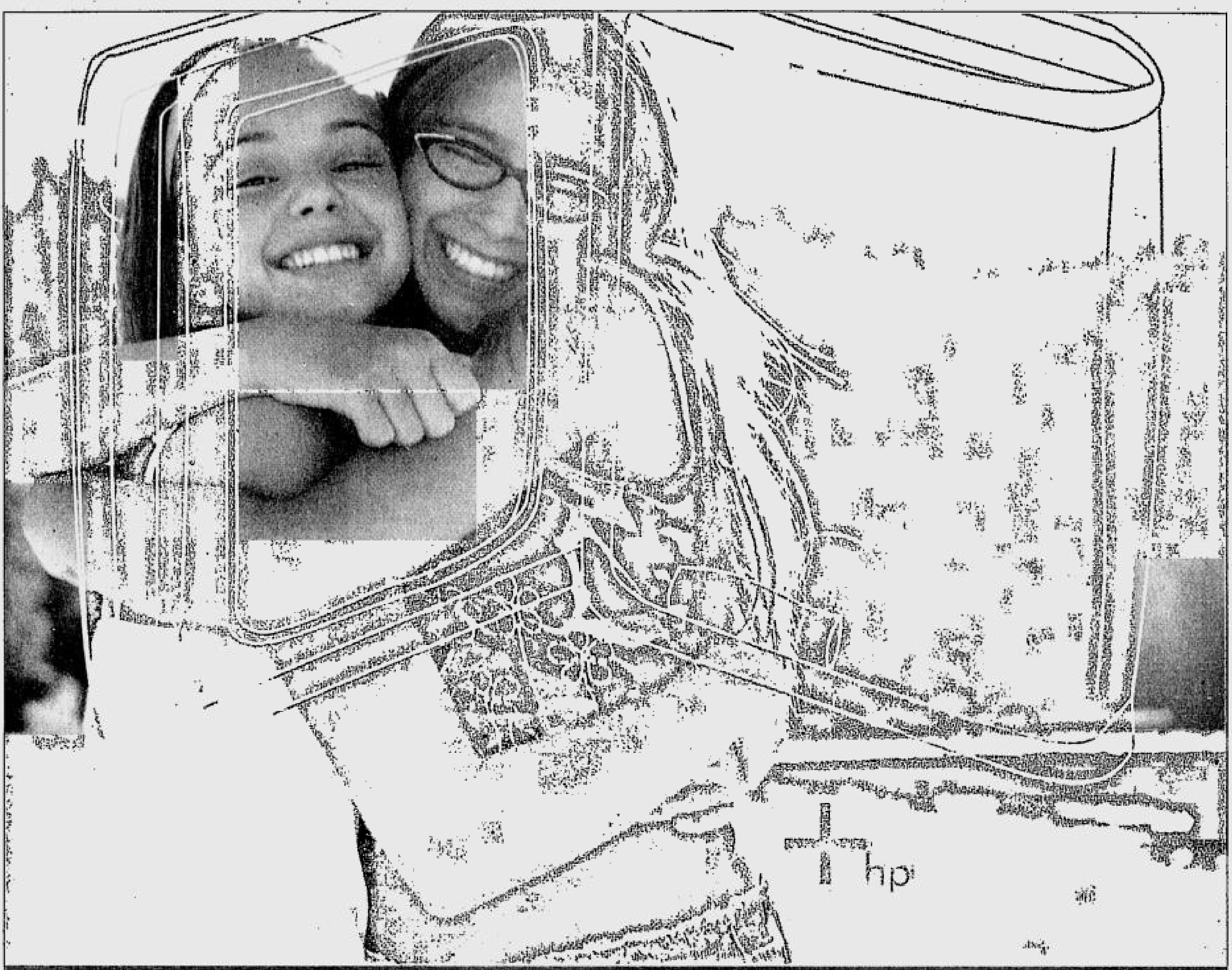
THE GLASS Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc. (GMAPI) has called on the government to approve Asahi Glass Philippines' petition for a safeguard measure against imported glass in view of the latter's claim that cheap imports were threatening the viability of its operations.

Asahi, the sole flat glass manufacturer in the country, submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry a petition for the imposition of a safeguard measure in the form of punitive tariff against imported glass mostly from China.

Under the Safeguard Measures Act of 2000, the trade department may impose a punitive tariff of as much as 50 percent for a 200-day period if the influx of cheap imports is proven to be hurting local industries. Within the period, the Tariff Commission decides whether to impose a definitive measure in the form of quota restrictions or higher tariffs.

The company is particularly asking the government to impose a safeguard measure for a three- to four-year period to give it some elbowroom before it could compete better with imports.

GMAPI, which is composed of manufacturers of flat glass, container glass, glass tableware and glass insulation, said the imposition of the safeguard measure was necessary to ensure local demand would not become dependent on imported glass. *Michelle V. Remo*



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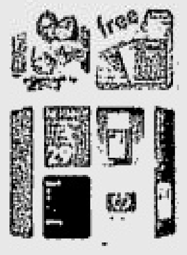

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Value that Filipinos put on product quality

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contibutor

THE REBEL soldiers raised funds for their coup by selling a helicopter at a steep bargain—only P20,000. But it came with a quality defect. The propeller did not rotate, the chopper did.

Jokes on ridiculous product quality have been around since your grade school days. But quality concerns are a serious matter, as any market researcher knows. So, what do consumers really think about quality issues?

Survey data on product quality are available from Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Main product lure

The following data are taken from the SWS national survey of March 2003.

They are part of a module commissioned by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP).

"What is your main consideration in buying a product?"

Its quality	57%
Its price	32
Reputation of the corporation	7
Recommendation from someone I trust	4

The responses don't differ much by gender or age group. However, the distribution changes when the data are disaggregated by class. Class ABC below refers to the middle class and some rich, class D are the poor, while class E are the destitute or bottom segment.

A function of class

The higher the class, the greater is the value of product quality. But the lower the class, the more important is price.

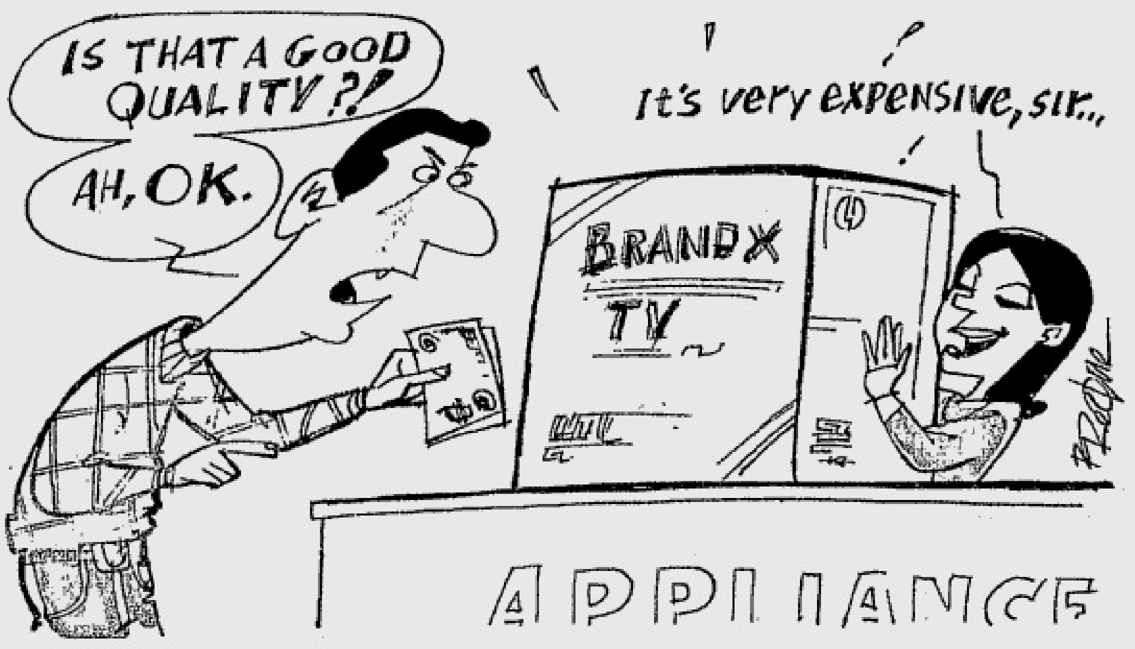
Class ABC	
Quality	69%
Price	19
Corporate reputation	10
Trusted recommendation	3

Class D	
Quality	60%
Price	30
Corporate reputation	6
Trusted recommendation	4

Class E	
Quality	45%
Price	43
Corporate reputation	8
Trusted recommendation	4

Responding to poor quality

Related survey data on product quality can be found in a previous survey. The findings below are derived from the SWS national poll of June 20 to July 6, 2000.


IS THAT A GOOD QUALITY?!
AH, OK.
It's very expensive, sir...
BRANDX TV
APPLIANCE

"I can tolerate a poor quality product as long as it is cheap."

Agree	38%
Undecided	18
Disagree	42

(Margin -4 percentage points)

"If you are not satisfied with the quality of a product you bought, what would be the first most probable thing you would do?"

Have the store replace it with something else	39%
Complain to the store and demand a refund	22
Inform others of the product's poor quality	10
Complain to the appropriate government office	6
Complain to the store but not return the product	1
Not do anything	22

"When you are satisfied with the quality of a product you bought, how often do you go back to the seller to say so?"

Always	26%
Often	33
Sometimes	34
Never	8

International comparisons

"Products made in the Philippines are (Better/ Just as Good /Not as Good) compared to those of ..."

The United States	
Better	16%
Just as good	8
Not as good	72

Read that as, 16 percent say that Philippine-made products are better than those of the United States.

Japan	
Better	20%
Just as good	15
Not as good	61

China	
Better	32%
Just as good	28
Not as good	34

Taiwan	
Better	39%
Just as good	27
Not as good	28

Aiming for quality

"In your opinion, how many large Filipino companies really aim for quality products and services?"

All	27%
Most	53
Few	18
None	2

"In your opinion, how many small Filipino enterprises really aim for quality products and services?"

All	28%
Most	59
Few	22
None	2

(Comments to <darroyo @ philonline.com>)

Study reveals US men embracing their 'feminine sides'

A NEW study by Euro RSCG Worldwide, a global marketing communications agency, reveals that men in 2003 have remained values-oriented. The study reported that men are embracing their feminine sides and putting the last decade of the 20th century of get-rich-quick, work-all hours and wild frontier days firmly behind them.

It also revealed that while fame, wealth, and desirability still appeal to the man, his most highly prized aspirations are friendship, growing old with the woman he loves, and having happy healthy children. Amazing? That's not all.

The study, entitled "The Future of Men: USA," is based on an online survey conducted between June 6 and 8, 2003. The study explored a battery of issues as related to masculinity among a random sample of 510 men online aged 21-48 and among 548 women with a man in their lives in that same age range.

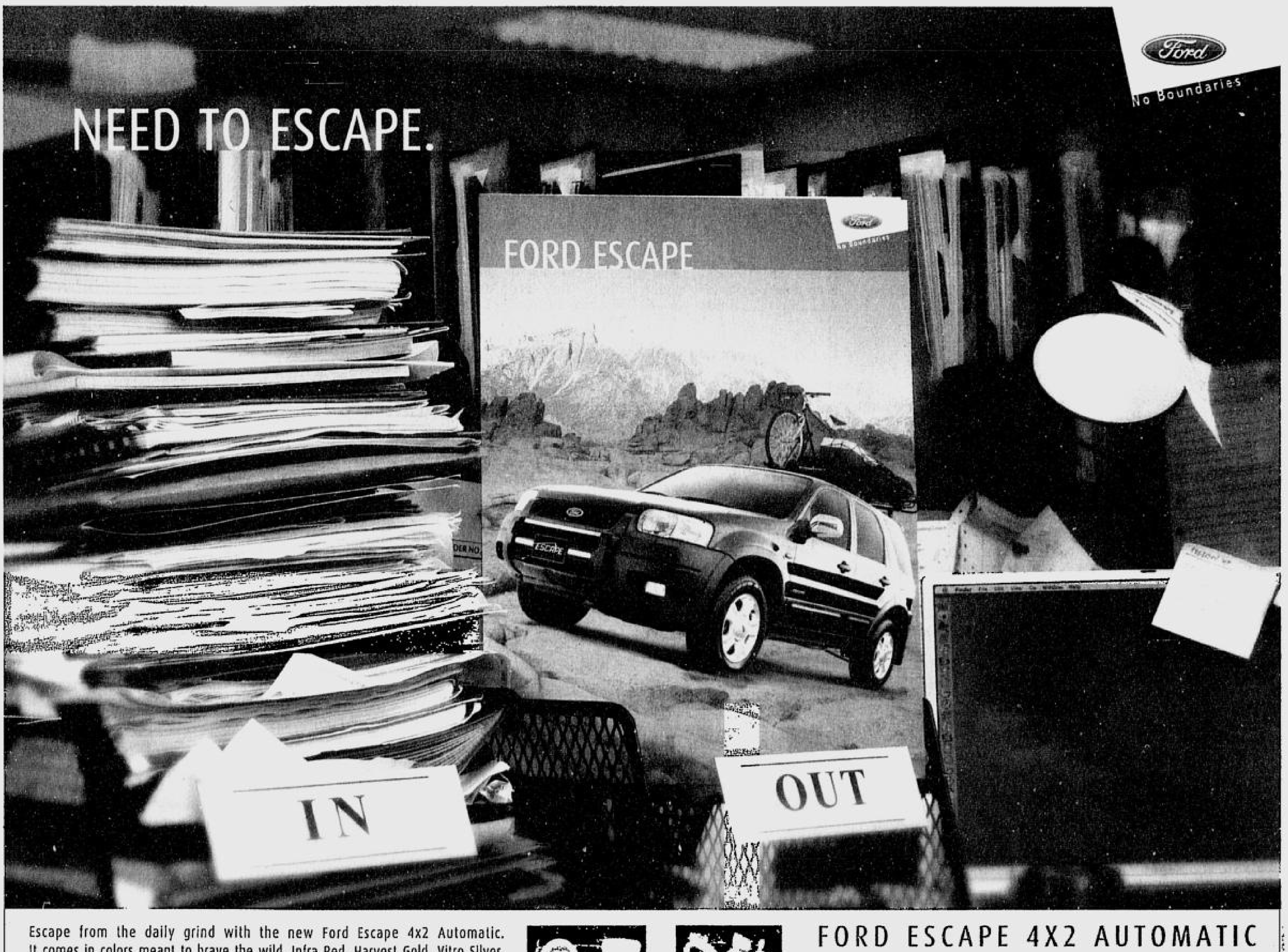
Over the years, women have increasingly been able to do things that once were considered men's territory without seriously compromising their status as "real" women.

By contrast, it's been far harder for men to do things considered to be in female domain without seriously compromising their status as "real" men. In the same vein, women have had little problem using products and services (e.g., cars, cigarettes, technology) marketed to male targets with male imagery, but marketing a product to women using feminine imagery has been virtually guaranteed to ensure that most men won't even consider it. Surprisingly, the study sees an emerging wave of men who chafe against the restrictions of traditional male boundaries. They want to do what they want, buy what they want, enjoy what they want, regardless of whether some people might consider these things unmanly.

Dubbed " metrosexuals," these men are primarily urban, heterosexual, well educated, and on easy terms with women and feminine ways.

The study revealed men realize that there's pleasure in investing time in oneself and one's appearance because there are clear advantages in professional and personal life. The vast majority of the sam-

STUDY/ B2-2



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Who's afraid of brand cannibals?

MARKETING RX

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: "YOU prescribed in last week's column that a market leader with a premium product should introduce its own low priced product when it's threatened by price brands such as generics. But won't that cannibalize its premium brand's market share and therefore lose business?"

In 1957, Kraft launched the instant orange juice drink Tang in the US with some modest success.

In 1969, it enjoyed an unparalleled popularity when Tang had the incredible good fortune of being indirectly endorsed by the American astronauts who first landed on the moon. While in outer space, Neil Armstrong was quoted by the press as saying that he and his fellow astronauts drank Tang with their breakfast.

Tang's brand managers were ecstatic and acted fast. Two days after the Apollo 11 spacecraft returned triumphantly from the moon, TV ads for Tang " the astronauts' breakfast drink" began playing across America. After that "revelation," sales of Tang soared and rode on this free endorsement for many years. (In fact, Tang is displayed in the Neil Armstrong Air & Space Museum in Ohio.)

Soon enough, instant orange drink imitators soon flooded the market with prices that were about 30 percent to 40 percent lower than Tang. Marketing lore tells us that when the brand manager of Tang thought of dropping his price to compete and protect his market share, a marketing executive proposed that they launch a fighting brand that would compete with the price brands. And so Kool-Aid was relaunched as a fighting price brand and became an instant hit as well.

The insight

It's important to diagnose the situation correctly. The first thing to remember in this diagnosis is that the market is segmenting into a premium segment and a price segment. So to say that your premium brand is going to lose market share is not correct. It won't lose share in the premium segment. What's going to happen is that it doesn't have any share at all in the price segment because it has no participation there.

When your market divides into a premium segment and a price segment, there will always be some or even many consumers in the premium segment who were just tolerating your premium brand because there was no other brand available that could truly address their priority product values, namely, a low priced product with just minimum quality.

Therefore when a price brand comes along that can satisfy their priority needs, these consumers will switch and leave your premium brand. So the issue is not really cannibalization of your premium brand's market segment. Consumer shift to the price segment was inevitable among those looking for a low price, minimum quality product.

More to gain than lose

The true issue is this: "When those price conscious consumers switch, will you just stand there and allow them to go to a price competitor brand? Or shouldn't you do something to catch them yourself by making available to them your own price brand?"

If you choose the latter, you'll end-up with a TOTAL market share (i.e., share in the premium segment plus share in the price segment) that will retain your leading competitive standing or even raise your total share. In fact, that's what exactly happened to Tang and it's own fighting brand, Kool-Aid. And so, it was this long ago—more than 30 years ago—that the true lesson in cannibalization was made.

Our clear marketing Rx then is for you to have your own price brand available to those switching consumers; so that when they switch, they will switch to you and you won't lose all of them.

It's still the basic market segmentation prescription: "When faced with two different market segments each with its own priority product needs, be sure you have two products each specifically tailored to satisfy what each segment is looking for, if you want to maintain share and your competitive status."

The often cited accompanying fear here is this: "If I enter the price segment, that will damage my brand equity!" If you already have an established brand equity, have no fear. Look at your leading brands. They've maintained leadership by having brands participating in all pricing segments: economy, premium and super premium. That's true of Niké, Christian Dior, McDonald's, and many others.

And look at the airlines. In the same plane, they cater to the price segment (economy class), the premium segment (business class), and the super premium segment (first class).

And if your brand equity is yet to be established, what's there to fear? You don't have brand equity yet, so what's there to damage? So rid your marketing mind of imaginary marketing fears. *Comments or questions? email us at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com*

Incentives for small businesses

TAX-FILES

By Eleanor M. Montenegro
SGV & Co.

CONGRESS recently passed a law that grants income tax exemptions and other benefits to qualified barangay-based businesses.

Dubbed the "Barangay Micro Business Enterprises ("BMBE") Act of 2002" [Republic Act No. 9178] (the, "Act"), the objective of the law is to encourage the formation and growth of BMBEs, which the lawmaking body recognizes as "seedbeds of Filipino entrepreneurial talents", alternative sources of employment and viable channels for income generation.

Incentives and benefits

BMBEs are given the following incentives and benefits under the Act:

- Exemption from tax on income arising from the operation of the registered barangay micro business;
- Possible reduction in or exemption from taxes, fees and charges imposed by local governments on barangay businesses;
- Exemption from the coverage of the Minimum Wage Law
- Access to special credit facilities, which the Act mandates the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP); the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation (SBGFC) and the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC) to set up specifically to service the credit needs of BMBEs.

The Act goes as far as to exempt interests, commissions and discounts derived from loans to BMBEs from the gross receipts tax (GRT) [now the value-added tax (VAT)].

How to qualify as a BMBE

A barangay micro business enterprise may be an individual, a corporation, a cooperative or an association that is engaged in any of the following activities:

- Production, processing or manufacturing of products or commodities, including agro-processing;
- Trading; and
- Services

The term "services", however, excludes the practice of a licensed profession.

The sole criteria to qualify as a BMBE is that the total assets of the business or enterprise must not be more than P3 million.

Assets include those arising from loans but exclude the land on which the office, plant and equipment of the business or enterprise is situated.

Registration procedure

To avail themselves of the incentives and benefits mentioned above, the BMBE needs to secure a Certificate of Authority from the office of the city or municipal treasurer where the BMBE intends to operate.

The procedure for registration, as outlined in the implementing rules and regulations of the Act (DTI Department Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2003) is, as follows:

(1) The BMBE applicant goes to the office of the municipal or city treasurer where the business is located;

(2) The applicant accomplishes then submits BMBE Form 01 in triplicate;

(3) Pay a fee of P1,000

(4) The municipal or city treasurer evaluates the application and issues a Certificate of Authority within 15 days from submission of complete documents. If the municipal or city treasurer fails to act on the application within 15 days, the application is deemed approved and the BMBE is deemed registered.

The Certificate of Authority issued to the BMBE is valid for a period of two years. This means that the BMBE will be exempt from income tax and entitled to the benefits for the period.

The Certificate of Authority can be renewed for another two years. It would seem from the wording of the Act and its implementing rules that there is no limit to the number of renewals provided the BMBE continues to qualify as such.

Incentives to participating financial institutions

To ensure that the credit delivery benefits under the Act are actually enjoyed by BMBEs, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) recently issued Circular No. 374, Series of 2003 (signed March 11, 2003), which gives incentives to the financial institutions that will set up and extend credit facilities specifically packaged for BMBEs.

Under the BSP Circular, all loans from whatever sources granted to BMBEs will be considered as part of alternative compliance to the "Agri-Agra Law" (Presidential Decree No. 717) or to the "Magna Carta for Small and Medium Enterprises" (Republic Act No. 6977, as amended).

For purposes of compliance with the mentioned laws, loans granted to BMBEs will be computed at twice the amount of the outstanding balance of the loans.

As previously mentioned, interests, commissions and discounts derived from the loans granted to BMBEs are exempt from gross receipts tax (GRT).

In addition, banks may be allowed to establish branches despite of or as a special exception to the general moratorium on the establishment of new banking offices, provided that these new branches will cater primarily to the credit needs of BMBEs.

Conclusion

The "Barangay Micro Business Enterprises Act of 2002" is a long-overdue recognition of the value of small, home-based businesses - the so-called "backyard industries."

The past years have shown where the indefatigable "Pinoy" spirit thrives—in small "sari-sari" stores, laundry shops and "pan de sal" counters.

The incentives and benefits under the Act should encourage more of this self-reliant entrepreneurial spirit that will, in turn, create wealth at the level where it is most needed.

Your corporate giveaways can make or break your firm's image

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IF YOU want a twist in corporate giveaways, it might be good to check out out Negros entrepreneurs have to offer.

Small and medium scale manufacturers under the Association of Negros Producers have long made names for themselves in the competitive export market because of their designs and commitment to quality.

The huge local market, thus, presents a new growth opportunity for these entrepreneurs, particularly for corporate giveaways, says Vitaliano N. Nañagas II, chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

"There is, indeed, a broad market waiting to be tapped for corporate giveaways. As we all know, the choice of corporate gifts can either enhance or detract from the image of an institution. That's why the market for corporate giveaways is highly competitive and discriminating," Nañagas says.

Corporations usually look for reasonably priced but quality items that they can give choice clients, ranging from common to premium clients. The price usually ranges from P50 to P150 per item.

The huge market potential for corporate giveaways was the reason behind the move of the DBP and the ANP to mount the 1st Negros Corporate Gifts Show.

The show, which will run until today, Aug. 1 at the DBP, features Negrense items specially designed and priced to tap the corporate gifts market.

"Products that are innovative, alternative, functional and reasonably tagged will always attract a finicky market. This explains the need to encourage more intense product diversification and development among our entrepreneurs so that they can capture a substantial slice of the market," he says.

Business Friday sat down with three of the members of the ANP who participated in the show.

Woven Fancies

Woven Fancies started in 1989 with bags made of native materials, which were manufactured in Manapla, Negros Occidental.

Managing director Victoria Vargas says native bags were not as popular then as they are now, thus, sales were seasonal, usually over the Christmas season.

Vargas, thus, decided to add house ware to the product line and this became its ticket to the export market. Its mats, placemats and organizers have since found their way to Italy, Australia and the United States.

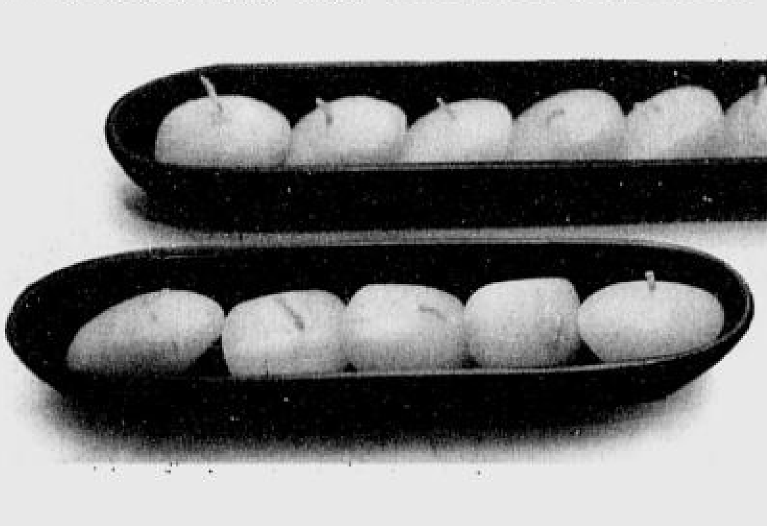
For the corporate giveaway market, Vargas says the company has developed toiletry kits for the airline and hotel firms.

"We thought about doing toothbrush kits for the airlines and hotels contained in jute bags," Vargas says.

Azatri

Bacolod visitors usually went home with souvenir hand painted or silk screened T-shirts manufactured by Azatri, owned by Ricky Infante.

Infante put the company up in 1993 and was happily producing souvenir shirts until he realized that buyers were looking for more than just shirts. They also wanted souvenir items but at cheaper prices.



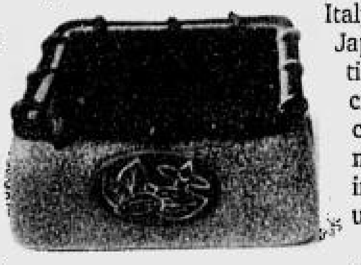
"So we expanded to key chains and memo magnets over the past two years to add to our product line. We realized that shirts are not enough to suit the demand. Some also feel that shirts are too expensive to bring home as souvenirs," Infante explains.

The line expanded further to include memo/picture holders and cellular phone holders made of resin and wire, and Infante says these are ideal for the corporate gift market.

"We thought of focusing on products that can be put on tabletops for the corporate gift market," he explains.

Kindlecraft

When Beatrice H. Pengson's uncle decided to sell his Bacolod-based candle-making business in 1998, she decided to take it over and bring life to her ambition to unleash her creative energies and tap the export market.



Kindlecraft Candles and Ceramics have done just that and its unique line of candle products are now sold in Spain, Italy, France and Japan. The attraction to Kindlecraft's line is the combination of materials making each product unique.

Pengson says as much as 95 percent of Kindlecraft's production are sold abroad.

Pengson says that since the corporate market is more price conscious, Kindlecraft developed a range of candle products that sell for as low as P35.

"But we also retained our whole line because there are corporations who want to buy more expensive items for their important clients," Pengson says.

She says candles and ceramic products have remained popular among corporate buyers because many firms want to provide their clients with products that have a more personal feel, and candles certainly provide that.

Study reveals US men embracing their 'feminine sides'

From page B2-1

ple (89 percent) agrees that in the business world, good grooming is essential for men today. Agreement is particularly strong among "prosumers" (the pro-active, information and technology empowered consumers, identified via a set of survey questions) which elicited a 97 percent positive response, a sure sign that male grooming will only get bigger. The men in the sample tend to agree that attractive men are more likely than less attractive men to get ahead in the business world, which is certainly an incentive for the more ambitious to get grooming. Overall, 65 percent of the sample agrees with this notion, including 70 percent of prosumers.

Among the survey's respondents, there's a cautious acceptance overall of various procedures to enhance a man's appearance. The most acceptable procedures are facials and manicures. Overall, 49 percent of the sample agree there's nothing wrong with a man getting either of those treatments, and when a higher proportion of prosumers (55 percent and 51 percent, respectively) agree, then you can feel confident that male facials and manicures will be on the increase. But men clearly continue to regard cosmetic surgery to improve looks as more acceptable for women than for men.

Cosmetic procedures for women garner 54 percent overall acceptance, but is in a doubtful zone for men. Overall, 36 percent of men agree there's nothing wrong with having these procedures (39 percent of prosumers), but 36 percent of them disagree.

Still, its quite telling that American men are now so blasé about the idea of male priming and pampering. What once was considered the clear domain of women has become an acceptable male indulgence. This may be the result of men discovering the emotional benefits of looking and feeling good, but it may well also reflect men's drive to take advantage of all weapons at their disposal in today's hyper-competitive workplace.

How men view women

Women sense male resentment at the advances that women have made, and there is certainly something of a jaundiced view of modern women among the men. Almost half of the male sample (48 percent) agree with the statement, "Modern women are selfish," while just 25 percent disagree. However, the percentage is neatly reversed among the female sample.

When asked which of a list of gender-related developments they'd like to see take place over the next 20 years, males and females came together on some but diverged in their responses in others. Highest on the wish list of both males and females is an end to gender-based earning disparities.

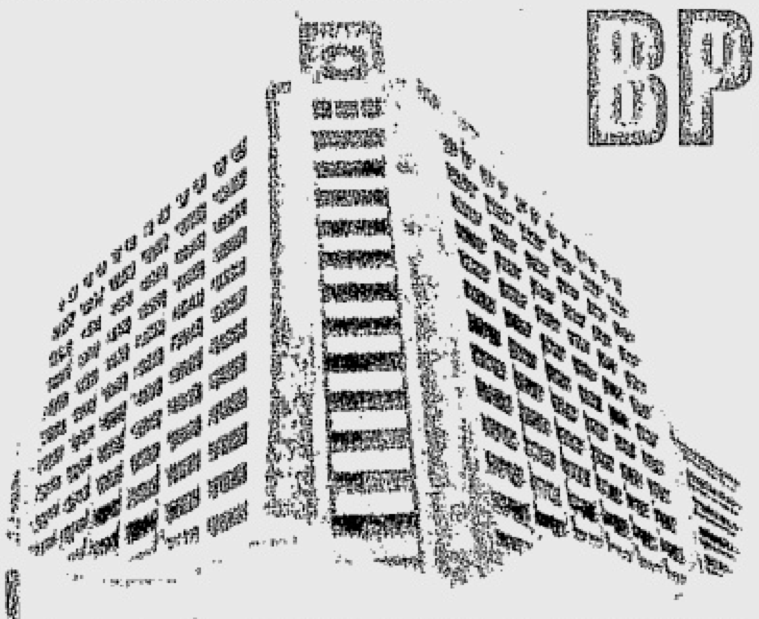
Both sexes registered agreement that they'd like to see an end to stigmas against women in certain professions (53 percent males, 61 percent females). But men are significantly keener than women on equality in the military.

The Euro RSCG survey probed respondents' values and desires by giving them a selection of 13 scenarios from which to choose. The scenarios covered such dreams as being proclaimed a national hero, heading up a major corporation, and being a sports star. Yet when push came to shove many of the male sample, revealed themselves to be—depending on one's perspective—true romantics, highly principled citizens, or unambitious stick-in-the-mud.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

www.bpiexpressonline.com

A Tradition of Leadership



BPI Celebrates 152 years of strength & stability

At a time when things are in constant flux the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) stands as a bulwark of financial strength and stability.

ON August 1, BPI will celebrate its 152nd anniversary. On that date in 1851, a Spanish royal decree ordered the establishment of a bank to serve the archipelago. Originally called Banco Filipino Espanol de Isabel II, the bank acquired its present name in 1912, during the American Occupation, to reflect the realities of the times.

Historians are thus fond of noting that BPI is the first bank in the Philippines and, for the edification of its clients overseas, in the whole Southeast Asia. The bank maintains branches and offices in the US (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Milpitas), Italy (Rome and Milan), and Hong Kong (Star House Branch, Worldwide 223 Branch, and Worldwide 115 Branch).

To stay in the game for so long is a feat few other, if any, corporations in the country can claim. For this venerable financial institution though, endurance alone is not something to crow about. It is proud of its one-and-a-half century of existence, and rightly so, but it would rather hang its reputation on its achievements.

In 1997, at the height of the Asian financial meltdown, BPI held out and even made modest gains. Two and a half years later, when profits of practically all sectors dipped further, BPI continued to report a net income that was the highest in the banking industry.

Last year, BPI made P5.2 billion after taxes, again the highest in the industry. For shareholders the income represented a 10.4 percent return on equity. Notwithstanding deflationary trends, its assets and capital were among the biggest in the industry, at P402 billion and P51 billion, respectively. Its asset management and trust portfolio, at P107 billion, was the biggest.

Here, it is only the third quarter, but all indications show that BPI will again leave the competition behind in the race for profitability this year.

BPI continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the banking public. Despite financial difficulties the nation had been going through, the bank's deposit base remained substantially constant, at P315 billion. So did its loan level, at P187 billion.

The country's top corporations regard BPI as their bank of choice. It is to this institution that leading players in manufacturing, land development, telecommunications, and retail go for revolving credits, term loans, leasing and other forms of financial assistance.

For most people though, all that is esoteric stuff. What counts most of the average banker is the ease with which they can transact business, and BPI is quick to provide the services even before its clients realize the need.

Through the use of the right information technology, BPI allows its 2.8 million Express Teller, Express Cash, and Express Credit cardholders nationwide to withdraw and deposit money at any of its almost 1,200 onsite and offsite ATMS scattered in strategic locations in all key cities of the country.

Full computerization also enables clients to view their account balance and transfer money from one account to another through their personal computers and on the phone. Cashless shopping is made possible through more than 8,000 point-of-sale terminals in participating merchant establishments.

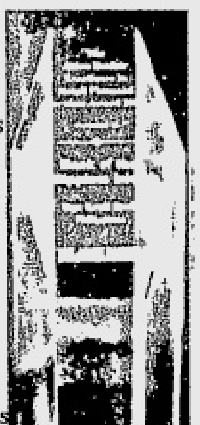
It can be said that it is enamored with technology, but BPI continues to serve clients through brick-and-mortar operations. At the present time, the bank has 709 online branches, 61 of them in the form of Express Banking Centers located in malls and other high-density areas.

For these achievements, BPI has received, year after year, such awards as "best bank", "most admired company," "best managed corporation" from such financial publications as Fat East Economic Review, Euromoney, Asia Money, Global Finance, The Asset, and Finance Asia, among others.

Most significant of all, this venerable institution has merited the highest grades ever given to a local bank from such rating agencies as FitchRatings and Standard & Poor's.

EUROMONEY
REVIEW

2003 AWARDS



1. Awards for Excellence - Best Bank in the Philippines
2. Global Finance - named along 2003's "World's Best Internet Banks" as Best Consumer Internet Bank
3. Finance Asia's 2003 Country Awards
BPI Euromoney - Best Local Bank
BPI Capital - Best Local Investment House
4. Asiamoney's Domestic Institutions Awards 2003 - Best Commercial Bank
5. Finance Asia's Best Managed Companies 2003
Included in 5 top awards for the following categories
Best Managed Company
Best Investor Relations
Best Financial Management
Company Most Committed to Corporate Governance
Strongest Commitment to enhancing Shareholder Value
6. DBP Awards
Most Outstanding Participating Financial Institution (PFI) under the IGLF
Most Outstanding PFI under the JBIC Facility
Environmental Projects
Most Outstanding PFI for All Categories

BPI Foundation, Inc.: Touching Lives and Turning Dreams Into Reality

Just as the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is reaching out to its customers through a wide range of innovative banking services, BPI Foundation is equally committed to reaching out to other sectors of the society with programs, focusing on the areas of education, micro-enterprise development, basic services and value enhancement. BPI Foundation envisions itself as a dynamic social development arm of BPI, responsive to the relevant needs of its communities and serving as a catalyst in social development.

In education, BPI Foundation, through the BPI Science Awards, recognizes 30 students every year from ten colleges and universities all over the country for their high academic achievements and for their outstanding research and development projects. A total of 400 students have been given the honor since the program was instituted 15 years ago.

Also, BPI Foundation, through the BPI College Scholarship Program, extends educational assistance to dependents f BPI employees with excellent scholastic performance and leadership qualities who wish to pursue science and engineering courses. There are 40 young men and women currently enrolled in the program and about a hundred who have already graduated. In previous years, BPI Foundation established Scholarship Funds to support economically disadvantaged but deserving students in science and engineering in partner-universities as well as Professorial Chairs to promote faculty development.

In microfinance, BPI Foundation continues to provide TSPI (Tulay sa Pag-unlad) Development, Inc. with funds for relending for start-up entrepreneurs. A total of 60 million pesos in loans had already been granted to 2,000 borrowers since the initial credit line in 1984. The loan program enjoys a 95% repayment rate. Consequently, the program serves as model for micro-finance lending in the country.

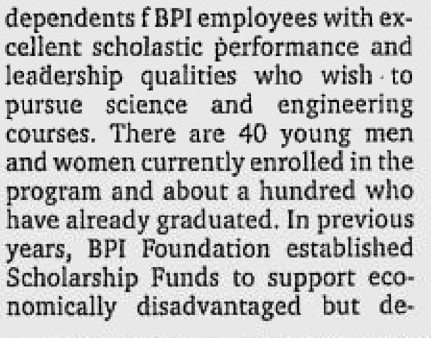
BPI Foundation's community involvement is intensified through the dynamic participation of employee volunteers in a series of socio-development projects. Leading this year's activities is the Cagayan-de-Oro based BPI Save Mother Earth Club (BPI-SMEC) which continues to propagate solid waste management in their area. Partnering with 12 public elementary and high schools and cooperating with the local government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), BPI-SMEC embarks on educational exposure on urban waste and segregation, classroom lectures, and hands-on implementation of the solid waste management program. The project created a city-wide impact such that BPI-SMEC was awarded as one of the 2003 Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations (TAYO) by the National Youth Commission, Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

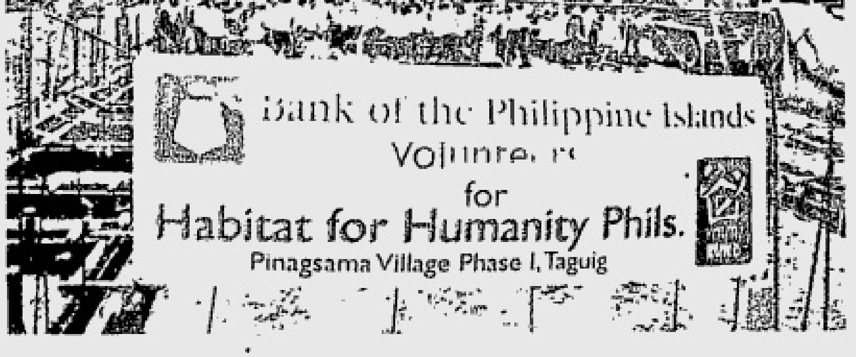
In April 2003, BPI and BPI Family Bank employees, together with their families and friends, volunteered for "Youth Build 2003", a home-building project of the Habitat for Humanity. Almost 100 volunteers gathered at the construction site in Pinagsama Village, Taguig City. The volunteers devoted a Saturday to build with future homeowners through the guidance of site engineers and the construction team. Some volunteers described the activity as a self-fulfilling endeavor and a learning experience as well.

This August, employee volunteers will partner with the Kalipunan ng Sining at Kulturang Pasig (KSKP) and the Pasig City Musuem for the re-introduction of the once popular Pasig-style pottery. Pottery is a traditional and cultural industry in Pasig. The sought-after Pasig-style pottery declined during the economic recession in the 70s. The Pasig Artists in cooperation with BPI Foundation and BPI employees will conduct art workshops and business planning lectures to revitalize and strengthen the industry. This exercise is expected to be a venue for exchange of art skills and business expertise in the community. BPI Foundation initially supported KSKP on "Facing History", the 113th birth anniversary tribute and exhibition of works of the National Artists Guillermo E. Tolentino.

Established in 1978, BPI Foundation, Inc. initially served as the conduit of BPI to various publics in need of assistance.

> BPI Foundation's community involvement is intensified through the dynamic participation of employee volunteers in a series of socio-development projects




Bank of the Philippine Islands
Volunteers
for
Habitat for Humanity Phils.
Pinagsama Village Phase I, Taguig

BPI maintains strong foothold in the asset management industry

BPI Asset Management registered over Php 130 Bn in terms of total Assets Held in Trust (AHIT) as of June 19, 2003. The Group remains to be the Leader in the local Asset Management Industry and accounts for around 20% of the market.

While consistently and faithfully adhering to existing stringent controls imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on the Business of Trust, BPI Asset Management continues to set its sight and focus in its main strength, the traditional Asset/Fund Management Business (FMB). FMB currently comprises more than half of the Gourp's total AHIT. However, with the Group's comprehensive list of products and services catering to almost every identifiable investor risk profile, the Group is further eyeing major breakthrough in the Retail Business.

Throughout the years, BPI Asset Management has been at the forefront in providing investors with innovative and comprehensive solutions to their fund management requirements. It has carefully built and nurtured investor confidence and result with an established record of performance beating industry benchmarks. Among the Group's best performing funds are its marked-to-market global funds, namely, BPI Global Philippine Fund and BPI International Fund Plus with their 2nd quarter 2003 YTD returns as follows.

The group caters to a broad spectrum of investors, primarily consisting of institutional accounts such as retirement funds, educational and religious organizations, insurance and pre-need companies, foundations and corporate accounts, as well as high networth individuals. It also offers the widest range of common trust funds in the country today. To complete its line of services, the group actively administers escrows, collateral trust indentures, custodianship accounts and special-purpose trusts.

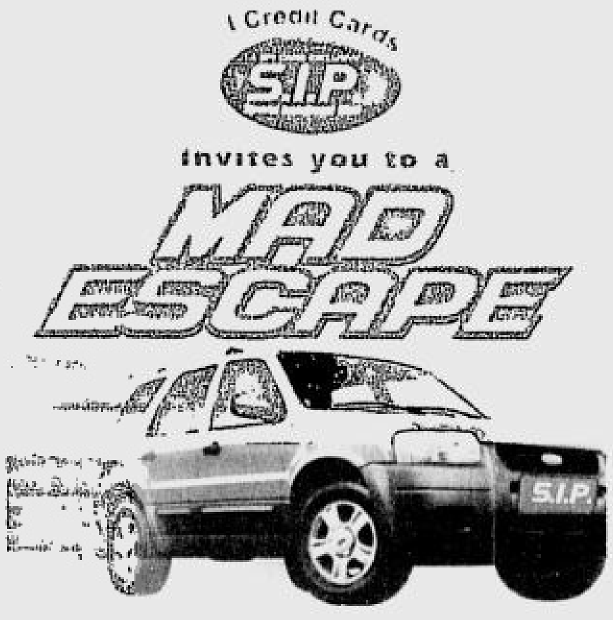
BPI anchors its investment policy on prudence and conservatism and has consistently lent its technical expertise and know-how to its clients resulting in the successful maximization of returns without impairment of the principal fund. Investors have relied on BPI's portfolio management services to maximize the growth of their funds over the medium to long-term while minimizing associated risks.

In line with the Group's thrust of providing innovative and comprehensive solutions to its client's investment requirement, the Group offers another Long-Term Tax-Exempt Product variant, BPI Individual Retirement Account (or BPI IRA).

BPI IRA is a living trust account designed for the retail market. With BPI IRA, retail investors can now enjoy tax-free interest income with just a minimum of Php100,000 initial investment. Patterned after the CTRP provision on long-term investments, all interest income from the fund becomes tax-exempt if the investment is held for a minimum of five years. BPI IRA investors also get automatic accident insurance coverage of up to Php 3 million while qualified investors get additional protection with a free P100,000 life insurance coverage.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

The leader in installment madness presents SIP Mad Escape



BPI Card, the undisputed leader in consumer financing, is presenting SIP Mad Escape, a promo that gives BPI credit cardholders the chance to win one of three Ford Escapes.

Bpi card continues to attract a strong and vibrant market because of its evergrowing popularity. In 1994, BPI Card launched the first Appliance Madness at the Glorietta, a groundbreaking event that changed the landscape of shopping convenience.

The trailblazing Installment Madness is the only one of its kind that offers cardholders the best deals including, among others, the 0% interest promo on high-ticket items from participating merchants.

This time, BPI credit cardholders making at least P3,000 worth of SIP purchase using any of their BPI Credit Cards (BPI Express Credit, BPI Classic MasterCard, BPI Gold MasterCard and Petron-BPI MasterCard) are qualified to join the promo. Every P3,000 worth of SIP transaction earns the BPI credit cardholder the chance to win one of three Ford Escapes to be given away. The more one shops, the more chances of winning.

All BPI Credit Card merchants nationwide offering SIP are part of this Mad Escape Promo: appliance stores, furniture shops, computer shops, cellphone outlets, jewelry stores, among others.

The SIP Mad Escape promo offers the BPI credit cardholder these other perks: from July 5 to December 31, 2003, they get to enjoy items at low monthly installment terms, selected items at select stores are likewise being offered at 0% interest rate.

The BPI Credit Card's easy payment schemes, discounts and perks make shopping a rewarding experience. BPI credit cardholders thus enjoy the most innovative and one-of-a-kind special credit card features around, including the cash price-equals-card price deals.

Only the BPI Credit Cards have two credit lines in one card: the regular credit line and the SIP (Special Installment Plan).

The SIP itself is a unique feature exclusive to all BPI Credit Cards. It is an additional credit line that allows cardholders to purchase high-ticket items on installment.

The SIP lets cardholders enjoy big discounts with low interest rates .from a choice of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or up to 24-month terms.

In addition, other cards offer lower but no interest on interest with BPI Credit Cards. Because it is a separate credit line, it is monitored separately and becomes a part of the minimum due.

When BPI credit cardholders use their BPI Credit Card, they will not be charged for hidden fees in their purchases. They are not surcharged for what they buy, whether at the Madness or on regular purchase.

Unlike other credit cards, the BPI Credit Cards compute the interest on purchases only on the statement date and not on the posting date. This gives BPI credit cardholders the lowest finance computation in the industry.

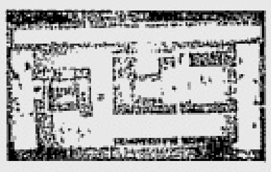
This edition's SIP Mad Escape will hold the raffle draw on March 3, 2004.

To all BPI credit cardholders, hie off to your favorite stores nationwide and you might win for yourself a brand-new Ford Escape!

Banking Convenience via BPI EBCs

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands takes convenience banking one step further with the Express Banking Centers (EBC) or kiosk branches, located in high traffic areas like malls and transport centers.

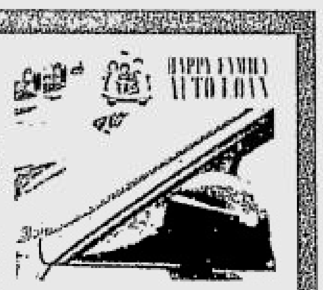
At the EBCs, clients can open a BPI Express Teller Account in 20 minutes. They can also open Platinum accounts, Express Cash Card accounts, apply for a BPI Credit Card, auto and housing loans and inquire about investment products. In addition, they can also enroll their accounts for BPI Expressonline, deposit and withdraw cash, check their accounts, transfer funds and do Check Free payments using the ATM.



There are approximately 106 Express Banking Centers nationwide, operating during non-traditional banking hours, including weekends and holidays, except Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

On August 1, the new look of the EBCs will be officially launched to the public at six Express Banking Centers in Metro Manila malls: at the Glorietta 4 Mall, SM Megamall, Shangrila Edsa Mall, Alabang Town Center, Ever-Gotesco Commonwealth Mall and ABS-CBN Compound.

BPI Family Savings Bank offers back-to-back promos



BPI Family Savings Bank, the leader in auto financing, is again rewarding its auto loan clients with the launch of its back-to-back promotions: "Incredible Indulgence" and "Treat For Repeat".

Due to the warm reception of auto loan clients to BPI Family Savings Bank's promos, the Happy Family Auto Loan's Incredible Indulgence is back! From July 15 to September 30, 2003, auto loan clients with a minimum loan amount of Php 450,000 will automatically get an Incredible Indulgence package. The package includes an overnight accommodation for a family of four (two adults with two kids, 12 years old and younger) with breakfast in any one of the partner hotels. As a sweetener, the package gives an additional treat with either a dinner for four or a relaxing massage for the couple.

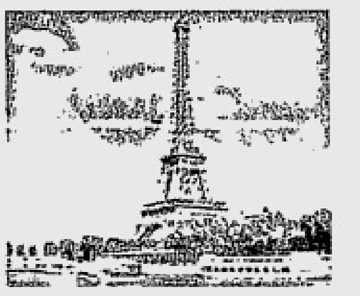
The hotel-partners to choose from are: Manila - Manila Diamond Hotel, Westin Philippine Plaza, Astoria Plaza; Batangas - Evercrest Golf & Country Club; Baguio - Baguio Country Club; Cebu - Waterfront Cebu City; Bacolod - L 'Fisher Hotel; Iloilo - Hotel del Rio; Cagayan de Oro - Marco Hotel; and Davao - Marco Polo Hotel.

And, to reward Happy Family Auto Loan's loyal clients, BPI Family Savings Bank is offering its Treat For Repeat promo! Previous and existing auto loan clients, who will avail of another auto loan, regardless of the amount financed, will have a chance to choose one of the following lifestyle showcases:

Nature Tripper Showcase - pop-up tent, sleeping bag and water carrier Frequent Traveler Showcase - trolley bag, overnight, backpack and toiletry case Everyday Motorist Showcase - air compressor, steering wheel lock, towing kit and booster cable Exercise Buff Showcase - gym bag with digital jump rope, dumb bells, grips and tummy trimmer Craftsman Showcase - large tool box, professional screw driver set, hammer, vise grip, tape measure, steel saw, utility knife, pliers and adjustable wrench.

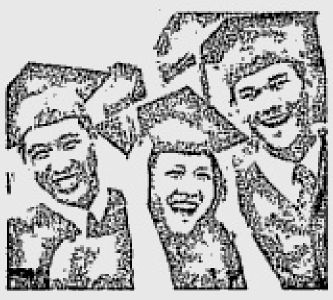
Redemption of these showcases will only be until February 28, 2004. Clients can get the Treat For Repeat showcase on top of the Incredible Indulgence package.

So what are you waiting for? Rush to the nearest BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank or your favorite auto leader or log on to www.bpidirect.com and avail of the Happy Family Auto Loan.



See the world.

Live your dreams.



Fulfill your aspirations.

THERE'S SO MUCH TO LIVE FOR. LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST.

With the help of your personal tax-free investment plan.

INTRODUCING

BPI Individual Retirement Account

Your Investment Plan -- Customized and Flexible

Invest for your future on your own terms. You can build up on your initial contribution of Php100,000 on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or yearly basis. You may also receive your benefits lump-sum, or through monthly pension payments, or just when you need money.

A Tax-Free Investment

Because BPI IRA is a long-term investment, the income from each of your contributions held for at least 5 years* means that, upon distribution, your investment income is tax-free. That's even more savings for travel, for getting that dream home, and seeing your kids through college. Do all these and more even when you are retired.

You Get The Best Rates At Managed Risks

Your BPI IRA will be invested in a common trust fund managed by BPI Asset Management, the country's largest institutional asset manager. With a track record of performance to maximize gains, your investment is as secure as your future.

For more information, please call (02) 845-5033, 845-5034, or 845-5035

Important Notice:
BPI IRA is not a bank deposit product. It is not guaranteed by the Fund Manager nor by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC).
Trust fee is 1.1% p.a.

*Income from investments held for less than 5 years is subject to final witholding tax at gradusted rates from 5% to 20%.

BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT
Put Your TRUST In Our NAME.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

SB Remittance Cent

BPI-POSBank Remittance Center

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands recently forged a partnership with POSBank to provide safe, reliable and low cost remittance service to OFWs in Singapore.

The BPI-POSBank Remittance Center opened last June 29 at #3-61/64 Lucky Plaza, the renowned OFW hub in Singapore, located along Orchard Road.

The partnership rides on the strength of BPI's network of over 700 branches and 1200 ATMs nationwide.

During its first few weeks of operation, it was noted that many remittances were bound for provinces in Northern Luzon such as Batanes, Laoag, Vigan, Pangasinan and Bulacan among others.

POSBank accepts cash, debit from POSB, DBS accounts or through NETS for payment of remittances, which can be made in 4 different ways:

Credit to BPI or BPI Family Bank account
BPI branch pick-up
Door-to-Door delivery in Metro Manila and provinces
Bank-to-Bank to any bank in the Philippines

Clients can contact or inquire from the BPI-POSBank Remittance Center for their remittance requirements at a telephone number (0065) 6734-7477.

Fully-Charged For Value!

When you use BPI Express Credit Card, BPI Classic and Gold MasterCard and Petron-BPI MasterCard to purchase items on 0% interest, you are assured of absolutely no interest. This is because if the way your minimum amount due every month is computed

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Are you sure your 0% INTEREST installment purchase is FOR REAL?

You have just purchased a new Plasma TV with your credit card on installment. You are thinking *"What a great deal! – I'm paying for this on installment with NO INTEREST!"* because you took advantage of the 0% interest offer from your credit card. You find yourself thanking your credit card for what you believe is a good buy and a neat payment scheme.

Or is it?

Start looking closely... especially if you are a credit cardholder who takes advantage of the deferred payment scheme – that is, paying just the minimum amount due or 5% of the total outstanding balance every month. Chances are, your 0% installment purchase actually gets charged interest.

How does this happen?

Check the billing statement that reflects the first monthly installment of your 0% interest purchase. Is the monthly installment recorded as part of all other regular purchases you made recently, ie. grocery bills, gasoline expense, a new dress? If it is, then the total outstanding balance for the month includes the monthly installment amount in the computation of the minimum amount due – the amount you need to pay to keep your account current.

If you pay the minimum and not the total outstanding balance, the unpaid portion will be charged interest. By the next billing statement, your "supposed" installment purchase on 0% interest has been charged interest! And so it goes on with every entry of your monthly installment until you complete your payment.

How can you truly enjoy the advantage of a 0% installment offer?

When you use **BPI Express Credit Card, BPI Classic and Gold Mastercard and Petron-BPI Mastercard** to purchase items on 0% interest, you are assured of absolutely no interest. This is because of the way your minimum due every month is computed.

A BPI Credit Card has two separate credit lines in one card, where one line is used for regular transactions and the other line for SIP or special installment transactions. With this arrangement, non-installment or regular purchases are treated separately to get the minimum amount due on regular purchases. Afterwards, the monthly installment amount is added to the minimum due – making sure that what you planned to pay will be paid off when you keep your card current and that **you do not incur interest when you should not be charged interest.**

In the end, you enjoy a good and honest deal.

Installment purchasing via credit cards is indeed a helpful payment scheme. 0% interest installment offers make it a great benefit. But don't you wish you can enjoy exactly what was promised?

With BPI Credit Cards, the 0% promise is always delivered.

ADVT

BPI Credit Cards and Anson Emporium bring you...

THE REAL 0% INTEREST RATE OFFER

Best Appliance Brands and Models at 0% Interest

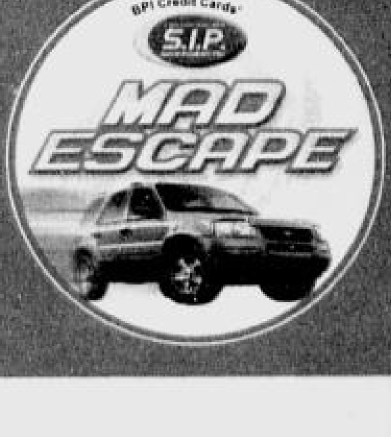
July 29- August 6, 2003 ▪ Glorietta Activity Center

Every P3,000 worth of BPI SIP purchase gets a chance to win 1 of 3 FORD ESCAPES.

Participating Brands:
SONY ▪ PHILIPS ▪ SAMSUNG ▪ JVC ▪ PANASONIC ▪ PIONEER ▪ SHARP ▪ CARRIER ▪ CONDURA ▪ KELVINATOR ▪ LA GERMANIA ▪ FISHER & PAYKEL ▪ GE ▪ ARISTON ▪ KOLIN ▪ WHIRLPOOL ▪ CASIOTONE ▪ FEDDERS ▪ KOPPEL ▪ AKIRA ▪ TOSHIBA ▪ ELBA

Anson EMPORIUM
WE BEAT ANYBODY'S PRICE!

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT



VISIT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ANSON BRANCHES:

- ANSON BLDG., AYALA CENTER
  A. Arnaiz St., Makati City
  Tels: 843-5042; 843-5044; 843-5046; 892-2208; 892-1372; 892-1392; 892-1395
- ROBINSON'S GALLERIA
  EDSA Node Level-3
  Tels: 632-9479; 632-9482 to 85
- THE LANDMARK
  3rd Floor The Landmark, Makati Ave., Makati City
  Tels: 810-9990 loc 2105, 2107; 819-1513 to 14; 819-1354; 817-0241
- BINONDO
  800 Salazar St., Binondo, Manila
  Tels: 243-2097; 243-2101; 243-2092
- ALABANG TOWN CENTER
  Madrigal Ave. (Beside BPI)
  Tels: 772-3680 to 86

For personal needs and corporate transactions, look for Tessie, Recie or Cecile at 845-3006 to 08; 892-1357; 892-1395 (fax)
or visit www.ansons.com.ph

See flyers for details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3068, Series of 2003

BPI chosen as 'Best Consumer Internet Bank' in the Philippines

FOR the past four years, the Bank of the Philippine Islands has constantly been adding innovation after innovation to make their Internet banking facility, BPI Express Online, the quality service it is today. Their efforts have paid off as BPI was recently chosen as the Best Consumer Internet Bank in the Philippines in Global Finance Media's World's Best Internet Banks competition. This is on top of BPI Express Online's ranking as the most used Internet banking facility in the country in the 2002 AC Nielsen.consult survey of local Internet users. Acclaimed by both its peers in the Finance industry and by consumers, BPI Express Online emerges as the leader in Philippine online banking. No doubt it's because BPI Express Online continues to offer innovative, timely, and excellent service to its loyal users.

Through BPI Express Online, clients can access the widest range of Internet-based products and services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week...even on holidays. Banking transactions that previously one could only perform by visiting the bank branch, can now be done through the PC or WAP phone by logging on to www.bpiexpressonline.com Clients can check the balances of all their deposit accounts in the same screen and review the details of their transactions from as far back as 60 days. If they have a BPI Credit Card, auto or housing loan, they can also monitor their outstanding balances online, as well as the interest rate, payments made and other details of their credit card, auto or housing loan.

Through BPI Express Online, clients can transfer funds to and from the various deposit accounts they own in real time. They can also transfer funds to someone else's BPI or BPI Family Bank account online. To earn more from their deposits, clients can transfer funds from their working account to a higher yielding account. They can fund a check they have issued for an unexpected expense with great ease. For parent, transferring funds from their main account to their teen-aged children's Express Cash cards is a quick and easy way to provide for and monitor their kids' allowance.

Paying bills has never been easier with BPI Express Online. With its Check-Free Payments facility, clients can pay over 100 bills without leaving their home or office. They can pay their utilities, loans, insurance, ISPs, country club fees and other bills with just a few clicks.

One can also receive their bills directly from the PC through Express Online's bills presentment facility. Currently, clients can view their latest billing statements from BPI Credit Card, Manila Water Co., Globelines, Globe Handyphone and Sky Internet. Clients can even schedule their payments on or before their due dates so bills are paid automatically, even when they're out of town.

Prepaid cellphone credits cal also be reloaded straight from Express Online. A text confirmation is sent right away, added assurance that the transaction performed came through without a hitch.

Along with these services, the backbone of Express Online's infrastructure is multi-layer security system that employees unique and high-level security protocols. Accessing one's account in Express Online requires a User ID and Password, which are uniquely defined by the client. Transactions are allowed with approved browsers only. These browsers have the ability to securely communicate online by changing the order of information as it goes through the internet channel. All communications between the client's PC and BPI are encrypted using a high level protocol called Secure Socket Layer (SSL). For something as sensitive as one's finances, these security measures certainly provide depositors peace of mind.

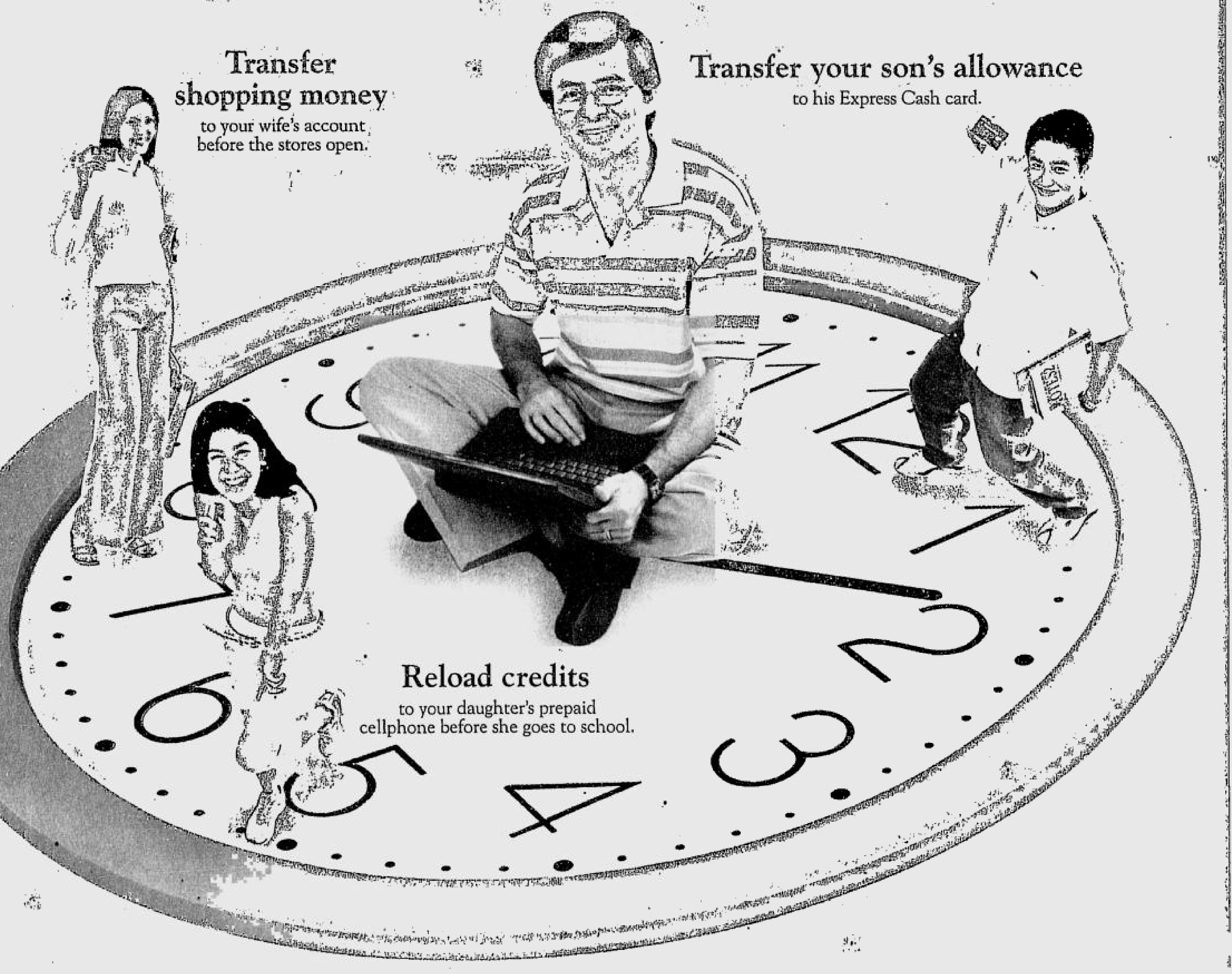
Enrolling in BPI Express Online is so easy. Just follow these simple steps:

1. Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com .
2. Apply online
3. Go to any Express Teller ATM and activate your enrollment through the Special Services command window.
4. Online banking is available the next day.

Even with all these features and services already in place, BPI Express Online has a commitment to its customers to continue evolving and improving - keeping abreast of the public's ever-growing needs. In the works are more innovations to make banking through Express Online even more convenient. For all the recognition that Express Online has received for its efforts, at the end of the day, customer satisfaction is its true reward.

Only BPI Gives You Real-Time Fund Transfers... Round-The-Clock!

There are so many easy ways to transfer funds real-time through Express Online and Express Phone 89-100 -- perfect for those everyday family needs.


Transfer shopping money
to your wife's account before the stores open.
Transfer your son's allowance
to his Express Cash card.
Reload credits
to your daughter's prepaid cellphone before she goes to school.

Just one of the many reasons why BPI was awarded as the Best Consumer Internet Bank in the Philippines*.

Enroll now and discover just how easy it is to bank real-time.
Just log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or call 89-100 (press "0" to speak to a phonebanker).

Banking Anytime, Anywhere @ Your Convenience.

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

*In Global Finance Media's World's Best Internet Banks Competition

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P100,000

Economics society sets debate face-off

"EMPOWERING the youth through Economic Excellence" is the theme of the annual inter-organizational debate tournament of the Junior Philippine Economics Society.

The debate, in cooperation with SMART Telecommunications, is called Motions-in-Motions 2003 will have its preliminary round on Aug. 17 at the University of Sto. Tomas and the finals will be held on Aug. 24 at the Assumption College.

Teams from different organizations face-off, debating about relevant national, Asian and international issues.

The JPES is a recognized umbrella organization of 19 Economics organizations from 14 different universities and colleges in the Philippines. It is the junior arm of the Philippine Economics Society (PES), and serves as a liaison between professional economists and economics students

The Junior Philippine Economics Society is advised by the president of the Philippine Economics Society, Budget Secreaty Emilia T. Boncodin. *For inquiries, call Carla Intal, VP for Academic Affairs, 842-9687.*

Gay TV ad shows tide turns for marketers

NEW YORK—"You can cruise for women; we'll cruise for men," quips Carson Kressley, the flamboyant fashion consultant on cable television channel Bravo's new smash hit, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," to his straight companion.

It is a message not lost on advertisers, who are taking a closer look at reaching the gay and lesbian market with a batch of summer programs highlighting gay-versus-straight themes.

Bravo's "Queer Eye," in which five gay experts on style come to the rescue of a hapless straight slob, is a prime example. In addition to ads by major brands such as L'Oreal and Whirlpool , the show became a venue for the first TV spot directly targeting gay consumers by Internet travel reservation site Orbitz.

Advertisers have spent years, and millions, cultivating diversity in their campaigns to sell products across a spectrum of American society, but mostly stopped short of including openly gay representations in mainstream pitches.

Industry watchers say they are surprised it has taken the advertising sector so long to invest in a community whose estimated spending power amounts to $500 billion.

Major companies "probably spend more on paper clips than they do on the gay market," said Michael Wilke, executive director of the Commercial Closet Association, which tracks representations of the gay community in advertising.

"Typically a company may come into the market, but in a very inexpensive way. ... Now that television is starting to become an option, this requires a rethinking of their budgets," he said. "There's still a lingering concern about the past taboo of what the gay community means to people, combined with a lack of information about the market."

Advertisers see shift in attitude

But the tides are shifting, as gay characters or themed programming become entrenched for broadcast and cable networks, built on the success of shows such as NBC's "Will & Grace".

Interest is also buoyed by political developments, such as Canada's move towards legalizing gay marriages and the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn sodomy laws.

"There has been tremendous growth and interest in reaching lesbians and gay men on the part of advertisers," said Howard Buford, chief executive of ad agency Prime Access, which has created gay-targeted print campaigns for major companies.

"When one company goes in there, then there's pressure on its competitor (to do the same)," he said. He noted a "dramatic" increase of gay-specific ads in niche publications and expects more gay portrayals in mainstream spots.

Buford said the shift also gets a push from the cultural buzz around "metrosexuals"—a new definition for young, urban straight men "who are looking to the gay community to be arbiters of good taste."

In addition to "Queer Eye," Bravo will premiere next week "Boy Meets Boy," a reality dating show in which a gay man searches for love among male contestants. Bravo, owned by the NBC unit of General Electric , has long put a special emphasis on programs for the gay community.

Satellite provider DirecTV will debut in August a new pay-per-view service for gay and lesbian viewers offering movies and special programming.

MTV Networks and Showtime, owned by Viacom Inc., have also mulled building a network dedicated to gay viewers, but no plans have been finalized, an MTV spokesperson said.

Reuters

American lady's garden business with a twist

From page B2-8

milk and beer, among others. It also sells household, gift and novelty items like decorative pots, painted plates, scented candles, lamp shades, hangers as well as wood, iron and shell crafts, among others.

A beautiful fountain serves as the centerpiece of the wide, high-ceilinged circular coffee shop that has flower-designed bricks as flooring and glass windows all around except on the side where the counter and modern kitchen are located.

The area is decorated with ornamental plants and stones and the walls are painted with a combination of light colors that is soothing to the eyes. On the shelves and the tables around are the items for sale, including an artwork rendered by a local painter.

The view

A sofa set offers coffee drinkers and visitors a place to spend time, but most of the coffee shop's clientele prefer to stay at the balcony, where wooden chairs and tables are available.

From the balcony one can have the awe inspiring view of the scenic San Juanico Strait with its serene turquoise waters, exquisite tropical islets and the marvelous San Juanico Bridge, a 2-km winding steel structure that connects Leyte to Samar.

The sight from the balcony is beautiful when we visited the place one afternoon, but many swore that the view is more splendid at night, when the lights of the famous bridge are already on.

On that late afternoon, several vehicles were already lined up on the lane besides the building and at the designated parking lot, with all the car occupants either busy sipping coffee, buying gift items or just waiting for the sunset.

Marjorie Wonson, who serves as consultant of the garden cum coffee shop, assures that the place is peaceful and safe. "We never have a problem (here)," says Wonson who lives in a house a few meters away from the coffee shop building.

Wonson is optimistic that this novel business venture will flourish, and at the same time help promote local products like handicrafts that are displayed at the coffee shop and provide employment to the locals.

Workforce

At present, she says, they have 36 personnel manning the place, from gardeners to a husband-and-wife team of horticulturists. Four more will be hired before the year ends, she adds.

Most of the workforce, Wonson reveals, are from the village itself, Barangay San Juan, and from nearby Basey town, also in Samar. "They are very talented and hardworking," she says of the local workers.

It was learned that many of the personnel do not only work in the coffee shop or in the garden; they also spend time making handicraft items. Wonson says they buy pots, plates and other native items and have these hand-painted or adorned with shells and other indigenous materials.

"They also made those scented candles," she stresses, adding that the staff was earlier taught how to make candles and that the workers find this as a great learning experience.

Wonson is an American who retired about four years ago from her work with a US telecommunications firm doing business in Leyte. Since then she has been staying on the house on top of the hill, which she leased from a Leyteño lawyer-friend, who also put up the new place that bears her name.

To her, living on a house overlooking the famous bridge is a fulfillment of a dream and working in this new business enterprise is like going back to her first love—gardening.

She wouldn't, however, disclose how much was invested in this wonderful place; but she assured that their prices would remain affordable.

This new place called Marjorie's Garden is very much unlike the garden shops many people use to know. It is one place where plant lovers would want to stay much longer—if not forever.

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

All. I. Want.

ABS and Dual-stage SRS airbags -Unexpected value in safety and peace of mind found only in luxury sedans.

ULT (Utility, Long and Tall) Seat - Multi-seating configuration. Can handle both long and tall loads with a 500 liter trunk capacity.

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OVERLOOKING SAN JUANICO BRIDGE

American lady's garden business with a twist

Text and photos
by Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—There are many things that make Marjorie's Garden stand out when compared to the garden shops found in Tacloban and in some Leyte towns.

For one, the place is spacious and located on a hill that overlooks the picturesque San Juanico Strait with its famous bridge on one side and rolling hills and a tall mountain on the other.

Also, Marjorie's Garden is setting a trend in plant business as it offers more than just greens but accessories, landscaping, plant rentals as well.

This is aside from its coffee shop that also sells novelty and gift items for customers who want to relax and bring home something other than plants.

The place is about 18 kilometers from the city proper of Tacloban and can be reached in 20 minutes by land. It is just a few hundred meters away from the foot of the picturesque San Juanico Bridge, on the Samar side.

From the national highway, a kilometer-long feeder road called Morning Star Drive leads visitors to Marjorie's Garden, which is located in Barangay San Juan, Sta. Rita, Samar.

Formally opened just last June 1, the garden shop has already attracted many customers both from Leyte and Samar as well as tourists who just want to see the place.

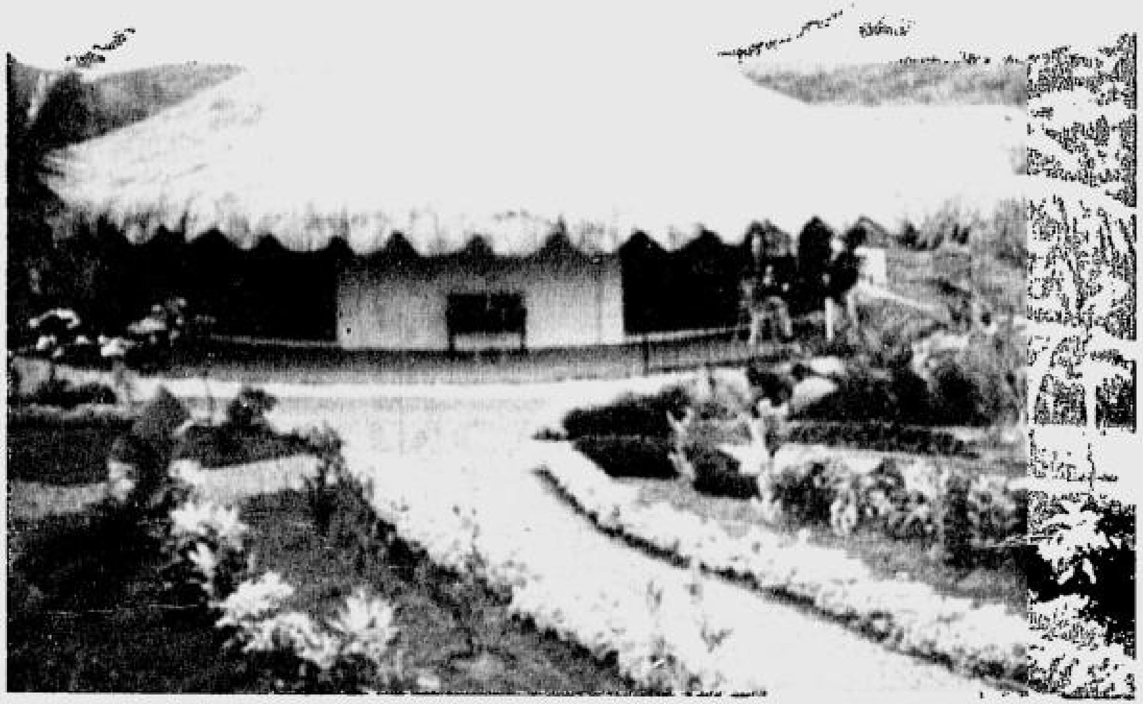
At Marjorie's Garden, customers in need of plants or landscaping services aren't shown brochures; nor do they have to give lengthy explanations of what they want. They are simply shown the garden and nurseries. Buyers can see and feel what they want right at the half-hectare place.

Surrounding the main building atop a hill, on a well-landscaped slope, are well-arranged rows or clusters of ornamental plants, a nursery and an array of garden ornaments like artistically designed metal objects, a beautiful fountain, wheelbarrows and driftwood.

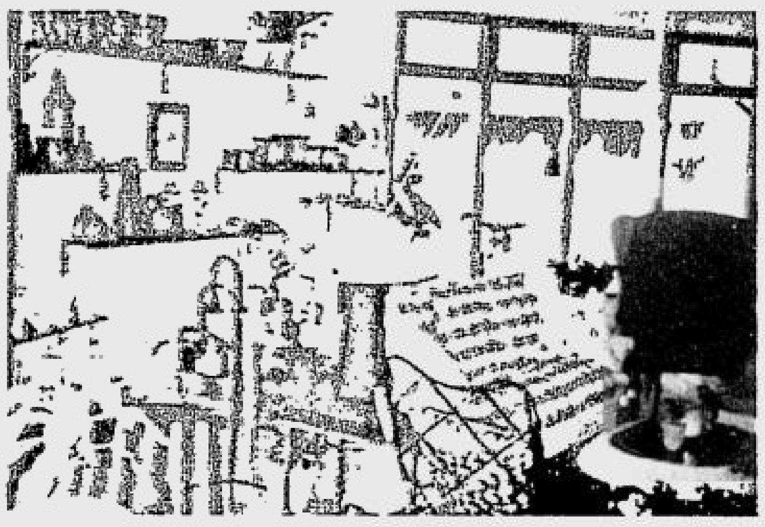
Eagles' Peak

The garden also extends to a place known as Eagles' Peak, where a big eagle-shaped driftwood adorns the right side of the entrance.

This place is a must-see for those who need landscaping services as well as looking for ornamental plants. It boasts of a long winding pathway that has four hanging bamboo bridges crossing a serpentine creek. There are also an artificial pond, cozy resting places with long wooden chairs and ornamental plants.



THE MAIN building at Marjorie's Garden which houses the coffee shop in the second floor and the garden shop at the ground floor.



SOME of the gift items on display at the coffee shop in Marjorie's Garden.

THE BAMBOO hanging bridge at Eagles' Peak.

At the end of the trail, one will find big nurseries with different kinds of plants like several species of palm trees, bromeliads, ferns, bamboo, grasses and many others.

All in all, the place has about 500 varieties of plants, including some exotic plants like alocesias and stag horn fern. Most of these plants were bought from Mindanao and it took them over a year to acclimatize these plants to the warmer weather in Leyte and Samar.

At Eagle's Peak, visitors can see and have the feel of what they really want their lawn to look like. They can infuse what they originally have on their minds with what they just saw. Or, if they want to, they can have a part of the place replicated in their own homes.

Going back to the first place where rows or clusters of ornamental are displayed, there stands a two-story, artistically designed circular building that stands on a leveled lot carved out of a hill slope. This main building has on its ground floor a store that sells garden implements, garden ornaments, fertilizers, pots, seeds, hangers, plant stands and other gardening needs.

At the second floor of the elegant-looking building is the coffee shop that offers several kinds of coffee mix, tea, soda, chocolate,

AMERICAN/ B2-7

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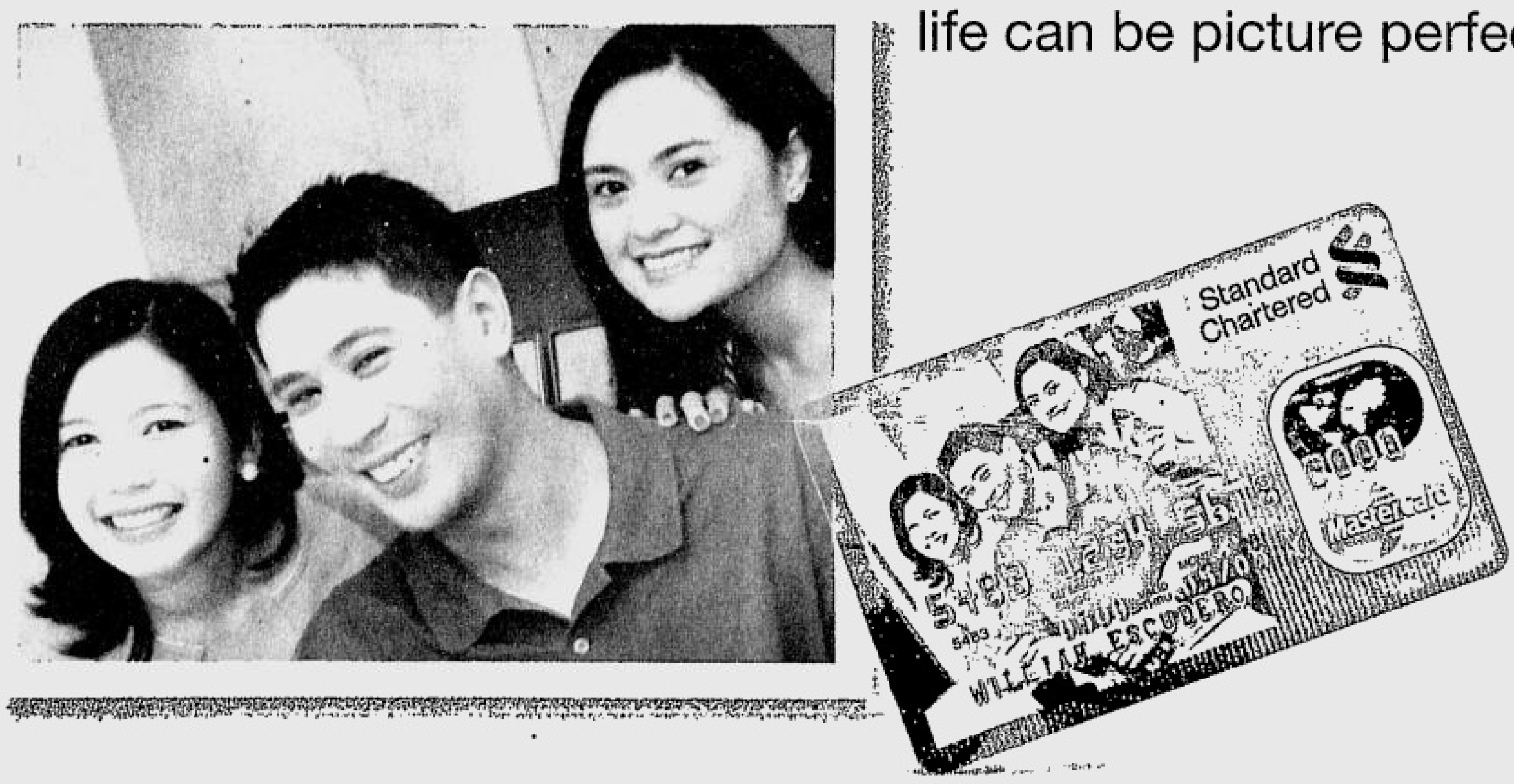

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ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino

Fil-Am comic, producer back out of film festival

Organizers still hoping as military crisis now over

By Marinel R. Cruz

AMERICAN movie stars Lou Diamond Phillips and Tia Carerre are expected to arrive on Aug. 6 to grace the 5th Makati Cinemanila Film Festival, according to organizers.

But another actor, Rob Schneider, and producer Dean Devlin, who earlier announced their intention to attend the festival, have begged off because of the July 27 mutiny of junior military officers.

"But we're hoping they will still come once news that the military crisis is over gets to them," said Beia Formoso of the Cinemanila Secretariat.

The film festival venue, which are the Greenbelt cinemas in the heart of Makati's business district, is only a couple of blocks away from the Glorietta, where rebel soldiers took over a hotel the whole day last Sunday to call attention to their complaints of corruption in the military.

Phillips, Carerre, Schneider and Devlin all have Filipino blood.

"(Philips and Carerre) will be staying in the country for one week," said Formoso. "Their first three days here will be for the festival, and the remaining days they will spend touring the country with the Department of Tourism as their host."

The annual film festival will run from Aug. 7 to 27 at the Greenbelt cinemas in Makati City.

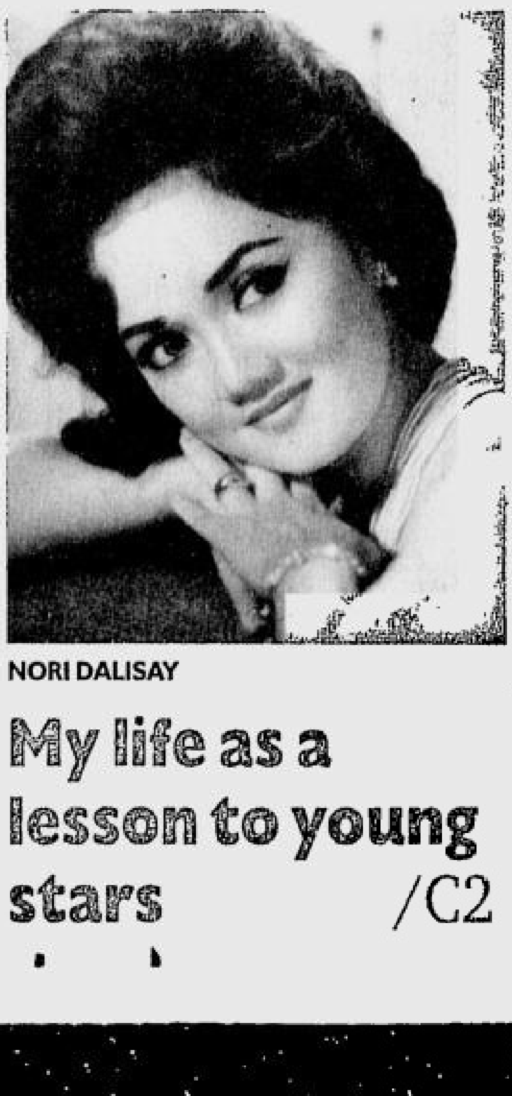
FIL-AM/ C6

ROB SCHNEIDER. Will he, or won't he?

THEY'RE COMING. Lou Diamond Phillips (left) and Tia Carerre.

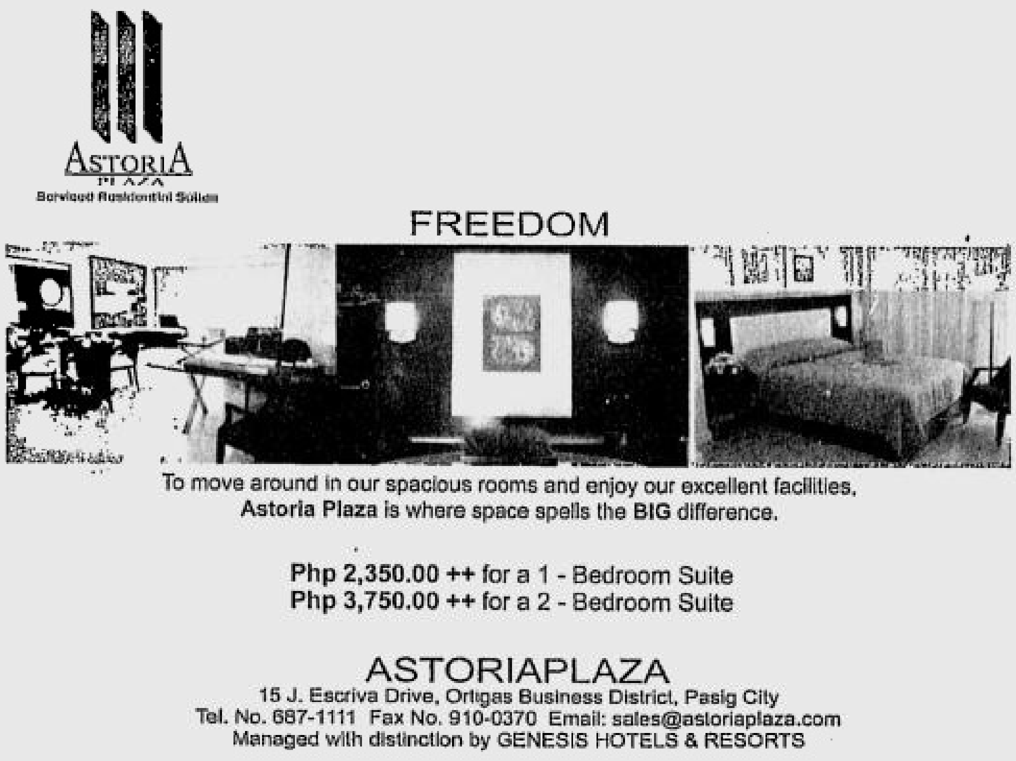
DID YOU KNOW...

Young actor **John Lloyd Cruz**, one of the stars of the series "Tabing Ilog" and "Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay" on ABS-CBN, was seen having a drink all by his lonesome at the bar of Monk's Dream at the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell in Makati City one recent Saturday night. Did his girlfriend **Ciara Sotto** stand him up, or did he want to be date-less and alone that night?



NORI DALISAY

My life as a lesson to young stars /C2



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NORI DALISAY

My life as a lesson to young stars

YESTERDAY

MISS No. 4 in 1957. Amalia was No. 1; No. 2 and 3 did not become stars.

'I wasn't born with a silver spoon. Before the movies, I was a waitress'

DALISAY today: She worked hard for the money. ROGER CARPIO

By Marinel R. Cruz

HONORATA S. Dalisay regrets that she had not saved for the rainy days after working as a talent of Sampaguita Pictures for 10 years.

She was 18 when she signed a five-movie-per-year contract with Sampaguita Pictures and became known as Nori Dalisay. She had just been crowned "Miss No. 4" in a beauty and talent contest sponsored by the movie outfit. Amalia Fuentes was "Miss No. 1" and Juancho Gutierrez was "Mr. No. 1."

"Aside from the money I had earned from the movies I made, I had a monthly allowance as an exclusive talent of Sampaguita," says Nori, now 64, in her home in Marikina City. "I also got paid for my TV appearances and out-of-town shows."

She first appeared in the Juancho-Amalia movie "Prince Charming" in 1957. She played second lead roles mostly in Amalia's movies, like "Kundiman ng Puso," "Hahabol-habol" and "Bata ng Lagim."

In 1965, she had a starring role, opposite the late comedian Apeng Daldal, in "Magic Bilao."

Nori, third of six children, gave most of her earnings to her mother to help support Nori's five siblings. Her father Severino died when Nori was 10.

Shock

"I wasn't born with a silver spoon," Nori says. "Before I joined the movies, I was a waitress in a restaurant in Escolta."

She was accompanying her sister to an audition when a talent scout offered to bring Nori to Premiere Pictures, where she eventually played bit roles until she signed her exclusive contract with Sampaguita.

"I wanted to have a house of my own," she explains, "so I gave my earnings to my mother until we were able to buy a house here in Marikina."

The three-bedroom house sits on a 240 sq. m. lot.

"So you could just imagine my shock when (after living in the United States for a year) I found out that the house wasn't in my name but my mother's," she says. Her mother died in 1991.

When Nori was 28 and had been with Sampaguita Pictures for 10 years, Sampaguita patriarch Dr. Jose Vera Perez sent her to the United States. She stayed with a friend, actress Delia Marcos, in Seattle, Washington, for a year.

Offers rejected

Since the house was in their mother's name, Nori's sisters and brother all wanted a part of it, says the former Sampaguita talent. "They said they owned it, too," she says. "They decided to have it rented and divided the money among them."

Nori does not hide her disappointment with her siblings. "I worked hard in Sampaguita, thinking that when I retired, I would have something to call my own," she says. "How could my mother own the house when she didn't work after I joined the movies?"

She says she received movie offers when she came back from the United States, but all the offers required her to do kissing scenes. Nori turned them all down.

She managed to make two more comedies, "Pogi Dehin Goli," and "Yeah Yeah Generation," before working in a private company as an executive secretary. She also went to night school at the former Jose Rizal College (now

MY LIFE/ C6

NO KISSES, please. Dalisay tried to live up to her name, which means "pure."

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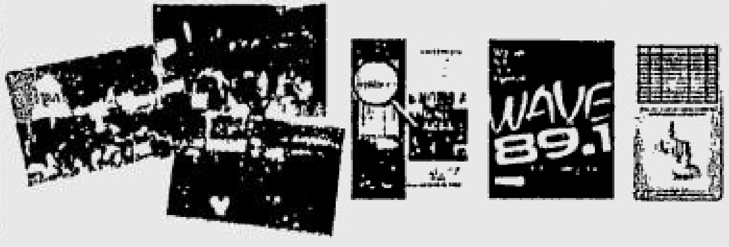

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Fewer viewing options

TIME was when, every Wednesday, some 10 new movies would open their run on the film theater circuit in Metro Manila, so movie buffs could choose to see productions that were specifically suited to their taste.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

These days, however, the trend toward "saturation screening" has resulted in more than a hundred theaters showing just one film, while other productions have to make do with only a few theaters apiece.

Thus, when we scan the movie marquees, we are left with precious few real viewing choices, aside from the blockbuster of the week. As a result, we lose heart and interest, and often end up not watching any film at all.

The saturation screening gambit makes sense from a commercial point of view, because it maximizes the earning potential both of the favored blockbuster and all those theaters that screen it. In only one week, the film makes tens of millions of pesos, while its competitors have to content themselves with loose change.

But might doesn't make right, especially when the blockbuster turns out to be a tired rehash of past hits, as is often the case these days. Other movies may be better, but few people get to see them, because they have been left out in the cold in terms of screening venues.

Can this unfair situation change? Only if enough dissatisfied moviegoers refuse to play the "blockbuster game," and uphold their right to getting enough choices to make their viewing day.

If low-quality blockbusters end up doing poorly at the tills, film producers, distributors and theater owners could get the message and give moviegoers more viewing options.

Unfortunately, there are many local moviegoers who see movies not for their quality, but just to pass the time, and to be "in" when talk gets around to . . . the blockbuster of the week.

The big publicity campaign boosting the blockbuster is so potent and appealing that it makes the favored film a "not to be missed" viewing experience.

So, most viewers end up playing the blockbuster game—and we're back where we started.

'Medjas'

"MEDJAS: Medyo Jazz," Noel Cabangon's latest album, will be launched on Aug. 7 at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3. Call the Jesuit Music Ministry at 426-1023 for details.

"Medjas" has 16 new tracks that range from pop-jazz to blues, folk and gospel. In them, Noel sings of "ordinary" experiences, making them near and dear to listeners.

"Medjas" is produced by the Jesuit Music Ministry and the Jesuit Communications Foundation.

Band Breakout

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 has just launched the 2003 edition of its acclaimed artist hunt, Band Breakout. The competition is open to all bands unsigned to any record label as of June 2003.

Bands must consist of at least three members (two of them instrument players), aged 25 or below. In a nod to current musical trends, entries in acoustic R&B and acoustic rock formats will be accepted. Entries must include at least two songs, one original and one cover, on CD, MD, cassette or MP3 formats, plus a band profile.

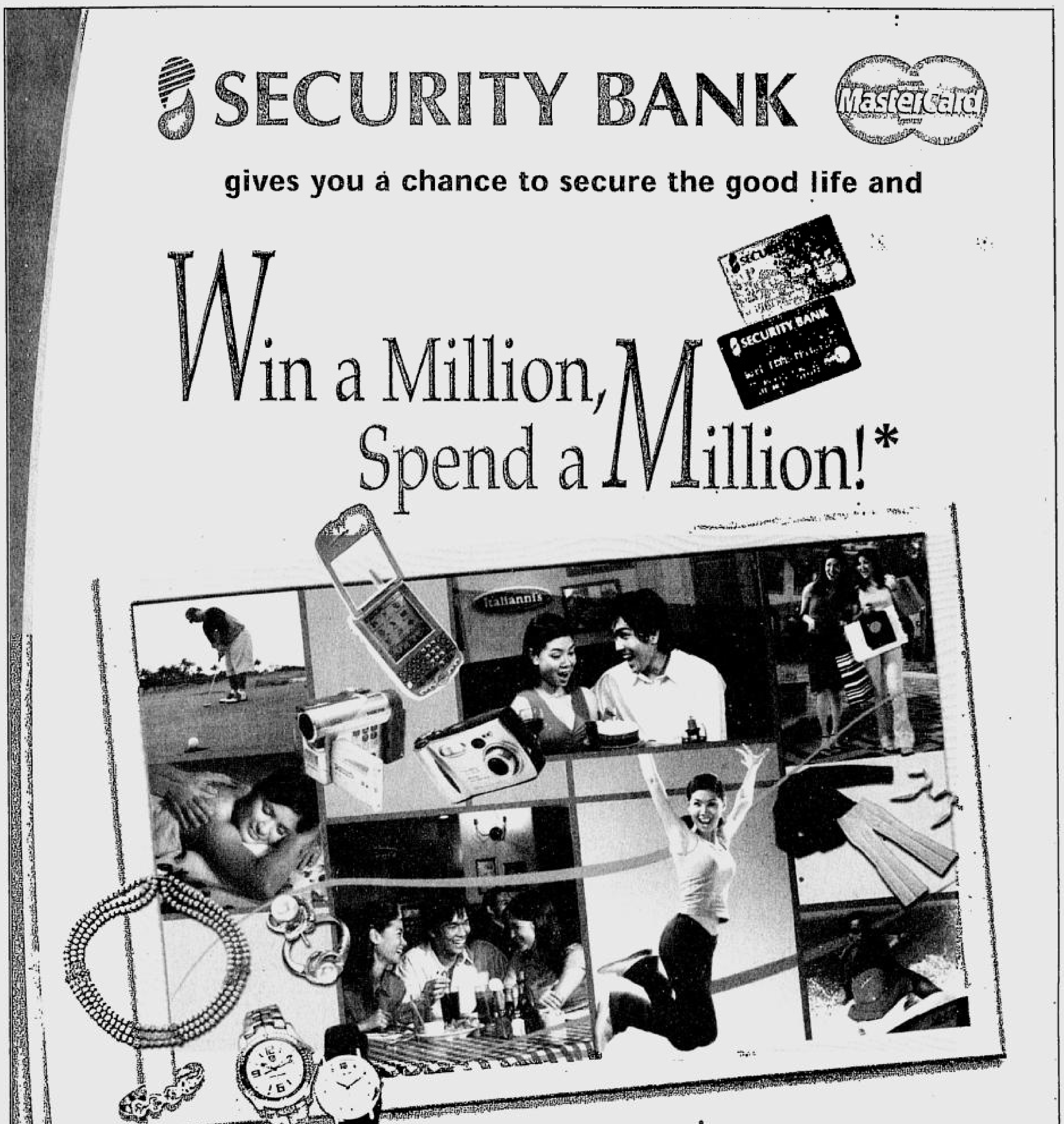
Last year's Band Breakout yielded a bumper crop of discoveries, including grand prize winner Session Road, which is now preparing its debut album for Alpha Records, and Stonefree, whose original singles are in the Top 10 charts of major radio stations.

Interested bands may bring their entries to RX 93.1, 17th floor, Strata 2000, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City, or contact Lally Fider at lally@rx93.1.com. The grand prize winner gets P50,000. Deadline for submission of entries is Aug. 31.

'Ibong Adarna'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation presents Rene Villanueva's adaptation of the classic

FEWER/C6



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Gary V hits at Music Museum

WHAT is Gary Valenciano's Music Museum series all about this time?

Gary V will be at the Greenhills venue on four August weekends starting on Aug. 8, and on the first weekend of September, in "Gary V Hits Music Museum." And this time, the show's going to be all about hits—Gary's biggest hits, songs he wrote, co-wrote and turned into hits.

Of course, he'll do the inspirational hits such as "Warrior is A Child," and the movie hits such as "Kailangan Kita." He'll do the hits of the times—songs from the '70s through the '90s, and hits from singer-songwriters who have had a profound influence on him.

Kyla is a special guest, along with Gary's son Gabriel, in Mr. Pure Energy's 20th anniversary series.

Multi-awarded musical director and arranger Ramon Faustino, who has been arranging, performing and musically directing songs for Gary for more than 12 years, explains: "The songs will either be popular tunes, or songs that have made an impact."

Of the performer, Mon says: "Gary is a world-class act. Although the trends in the local music industry dictate what sells here, Gary and I continually expose themselves to the global scene. Our sound has to be at par or at least strive to be on the same level as international standards. If you see our shows, they are all showcases of what the Pinoys are capable of, such as intricate choreography, classy harmonies, videos that are in-sync with the live performance, back-up vocalists who sing duets with Gary. And, if you're a musician, you will notice that we use computers to produce sounds that are not heard anywhere else.

"Musically, Gary has become more versatile," adds Mon. "He plays instruments as part of the act, like the bongos, congas, or the K-jon, the electronic percussions, or even the keyboards. From way back, the 'fun with relevance' concept has been our staple concept, but our sound also has to appeal to the MTV generation as well as his old reliable fans.

"In recent months, though, our concerts have become more inspirational, with some really funny laugh-out-loud segments mixed in," adds Mon.

"Gary V Hits Music Museum" is a production of Entertainment Production Inc. and RPN in cooperation with Alaska Milk, ABS Bitter Herbs, Air Philippines, Sennheiser, Anonymous, Goldilocks, Njork, Congo Grill, Wave 89.1, Joey 92.3 Rhythms, Monster Radio RX93.1, Magic 89.9, 105.1 Crossover, 103.5 K-Lite, Jam 88.3, 99.5 RT, YES! Fm 101.1, Love Radio 90.7, MTV Philippines, Universal Records, The Philippine Star, Manila Bulletin, Dr. Vivian Sarabia, Essensuals Hairdressing.

Tickets at P1,500, P1,200, P800 and P600 are available at major National Bookstores, Robinson's Department Stores Malate and Galleria, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, Music Museum and Ticketworld.

SHOW TIME

Rock and roll for peace

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

ARTISTS have often united in times of uncertainty and rallied against injustice and strife.

Who would have thought that the country music trio Dixie Chicks would become outspoken artists championing a cause, much like activists Bruce Springsteen, Joan Baez or Natalie Merchant? The Chicks, taking advantage of the attention attracted by their vocalist's controversial anti-Bush remark, are now encouraging young women to vote and speak their minds on political issues.

Many celebrities are using their popularity and talents to make people listen and get involved. Music is one way, believes Gregory Peck (no relation to the late actor), who witnessed firsthand the birth of rock and roll in the US. The 52-year-old businessman, who has lived on and off in the Philippines for 18 years, may not be a celebrity, but he's doing his part in inspiring social consciousness.

"What I've come to learn is that, in the Philippines, you have some of the finest musicians to be found in the world as far as I'm concerned," claims Peck.

His brainchild, "Rock and Roll Revival World Tour (World Chance for Peace)" aims to encourage unity and idealism. He has gathered six Filipino bands (Asciano, Band @ Work, The Boss, Flowerchilde, K.O. Jones, and Moonshine) to perform at the Fort Bonifacio Global City on Aug. 15 and 16, with a "Battle of the Bands" on the second day.

The tour is already booked in eight countries each in Asia and Europe, and 10 US cities after its initial Manila run, claims Peck.

Immortal power

The Colorado-born Peck claims he was there in rock and roll's early stages, watching young pioneers Elvis Presley, Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin's powerful performances before they became famous and hugely successful.

"Real rock and roll music, before it was perverted by commercialism, is about love and brotherhood," says the ponytailed, bearded peacemaker. "It's about social correction with a beat. This essence will never die, its power is immortal. Not to sound preachy, but people perish for lack of knowledge. I promote the concept of going throughout the world and learning about people, because it is by knowledge that we begin to understand. I don't care what country you go to in this world, families want the same thing—a decent living, food on the table for the children, they want to live in peace."

He laments music that promotes violence or racism, or one about "a man driving his pregnant wife off the bridge" (a reference to Eminem's "Stan," about a deranged fan).

"There's something lost," he says. "In the '60s, songs were about love, peace, understanding. Sex and romancing were dignified. Rock and roll is supposed to be fundamental."

Vision

He's very impressed by the local talents he chose for the ambitious tour, whom he collectively likens to Michelangelo: "They got the job because they're artists."

Michelle Locke, vocalist of the all-female band Flowerchilde, enthuses, "We're jumping on the bandwagon with Greg because we believe in his vision."

Her bandmate, drummer Maegan Aguilar, adds: "My first impression of Greg was, he's really from Woodstock, someone like that kid in 'Almost Famous,' who just followed everyone around. If he had the vision of reviving that again right now, if we could share our talents, why not? We decided to give it a try."

Peck reveals, "Making money is not my intention. We do not have sponsors at this time so even if we sell out the entire venue, we would still lose money. So, really, this is just about celebrating love and life. It's about reviving the heart and soul of two generations—mine, and now, yours."

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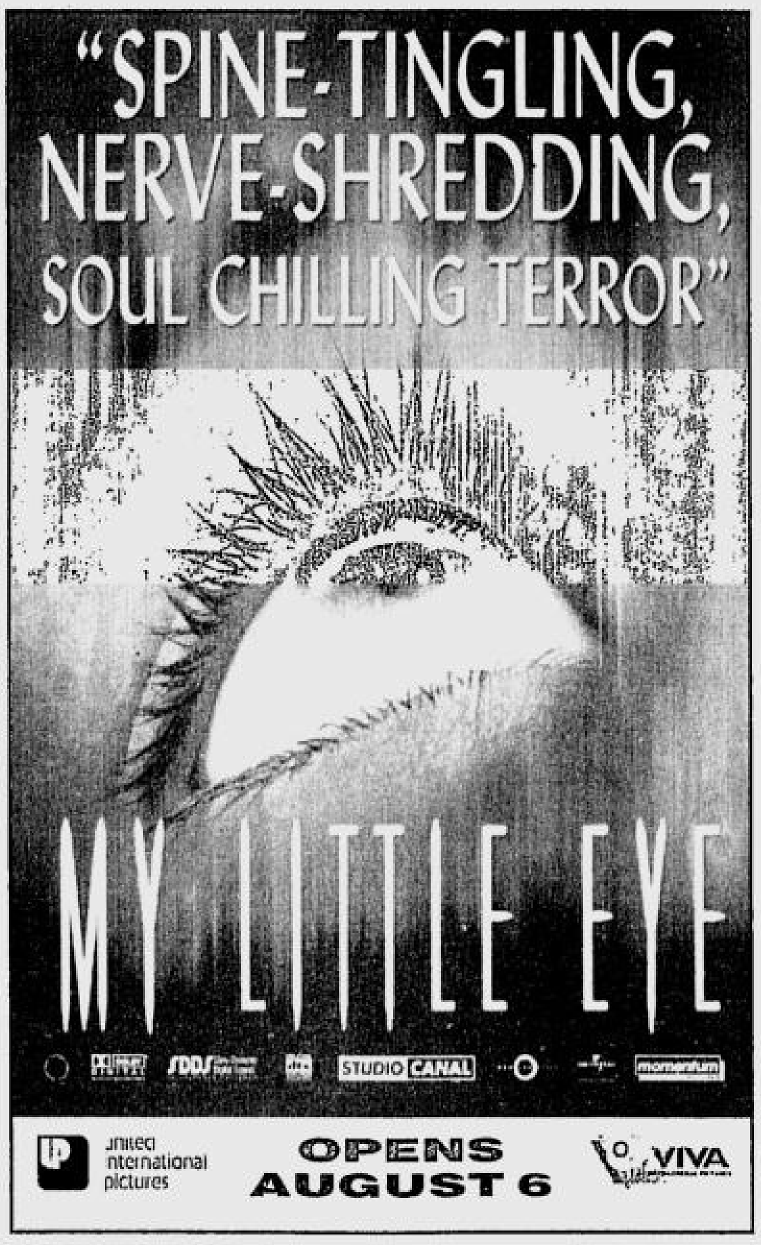
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BAD BOYS 2
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BAD BOYS 2
B	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-2	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	BANGKOK HAUNTED
CINEMA-7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-15	TOMB RAIDER 2
LORES	
CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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BAD BOYS 2 R13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	DOWN WITH LOVE PG13 1:30,3:35,5:40, 7:45,9:50	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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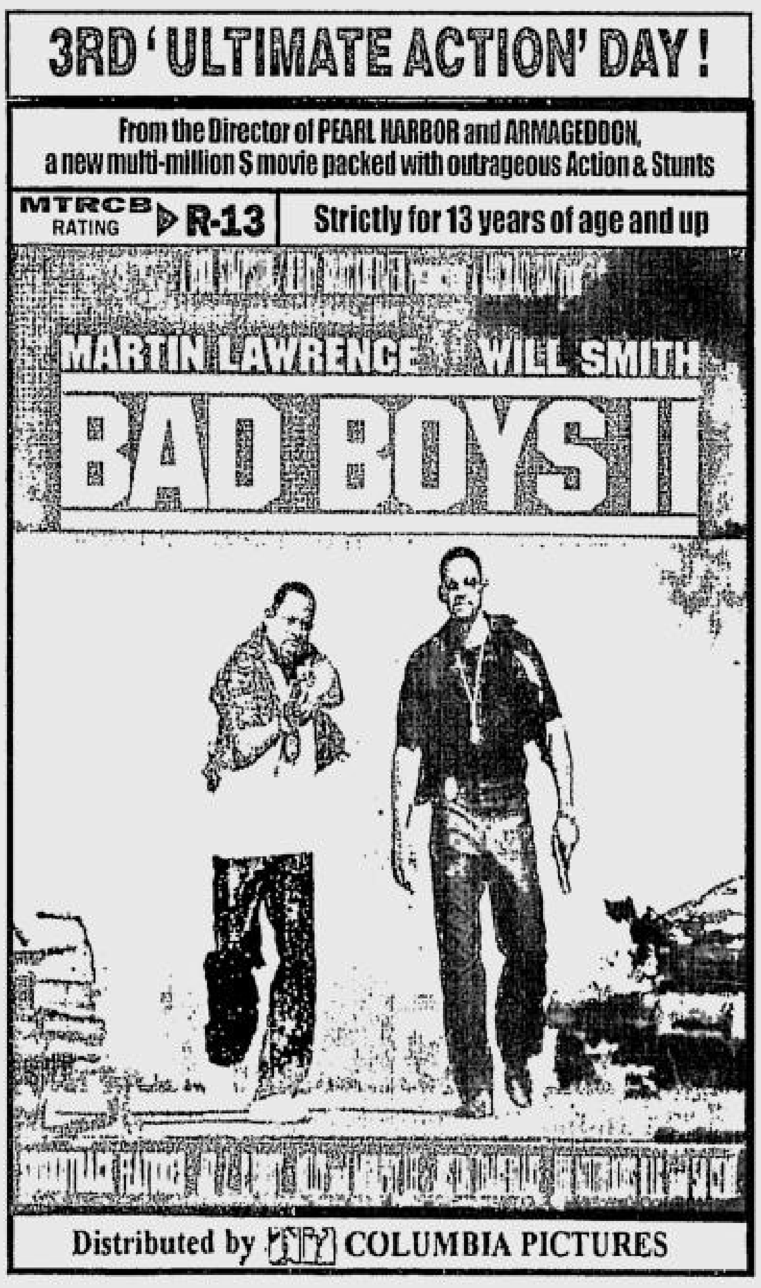

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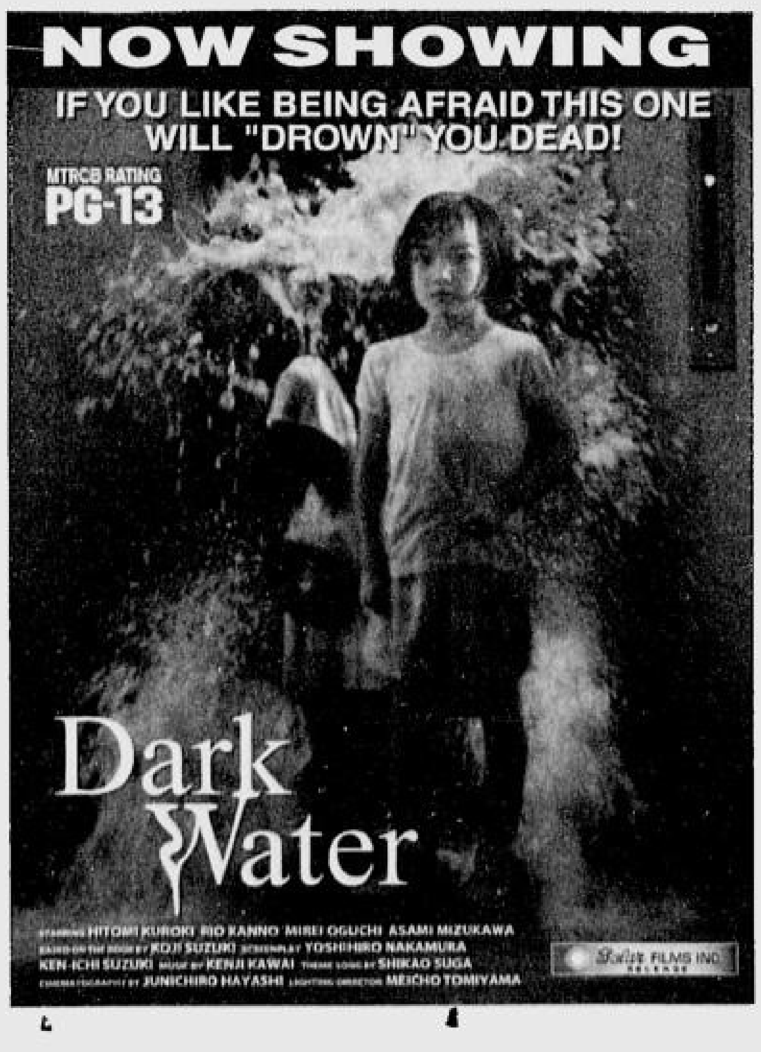

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CINEMATOGRAPHY BY JUNICHIRO HAYASHI LIGHTING DIRECTOR MEICHO TOMIYAMA
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11 OF THEM are here (from left front, clockwise) Mike Cohen, Reema Chanco, Ogie Diaz, Edu Manzano, Ira Panganiban, Erwin Tulfo, Claudine Trillo, Mon Ilagan, Katherine de Castro, Tin-tin Bersola and Winnie Cordero. Bobby Yan, not in the picture, makes an even dozen.

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12 good reasons to wake up early

By Gerrilyn Cadiz
Contributor

ABS-CBN is giving you at least 12 reasons to get up at 5:30 a.m. and turn on the TV to catch its newly reformatted "Magandang Umaga Bayan": Tin-Tin Bersola, Edu Manzano, Erwin Tulfo, Ogie Diaz, Claudine Trillo, Katherine de Castro, Mon Ilagan, Ira Panganiban, Reema Chanco, Mike Cohen, Winnie Cordero and Bobby Yan.

Considered the neophyte in the group is Reema Chanco. She's done TV before, and you probably remember her from "Exchange" and "G-Force," and more recently in the latest MTV VJ Hunt, but this is the first time Reema is doing a live morning show.

"Every day's an adventure," Reema says of her "MUB" segment, where she gives the traffic report either from the ground or on board a chopper. "I now know where Munoz (market) is, and I have a keener understanding of how the flow of traffic works."

Reema admits she was nervous on her first day on the job. "Good thing they talked to me," she says, referring to the show's other hosts, "and didn't leave me to just talk on and on on my own."

Reema, who was discovered in a "small bar in Parañaque in 2001," says Tessie Tomas is the host she admires the most. "She's funny," she says of Teysi. "She's comfortable to talk to. And when she wasn't doing any shows, people missed her."

Also on board "MUB" is irrepressible show biz reporter and columnist Ogie Diaz. He teams up with Tin-Tin Bersola in the entertainment segment.

"Tin-Tin and I have this segment called 'Showbiz Headlines' where we report entertainment news we get from all the dailies," he explains. "Then, I have my own segment where I dish out blind items."

True to form, Ogie offers these tidbits on his co-hosts:

Edu sometimes takes the MRT, especially when he's late. He bought a big alarm clock because he woke up late one time. Is so generous he always has ready cash for anybody, often entertainment industry folk, who asks for monetary assistance.

Erwin looks intimidating at first. Has to be constantly reminded that he's doing a morning show because he tends to get carried away when sensitive or delicate issues are being discussed, such as rape, politics, etc..

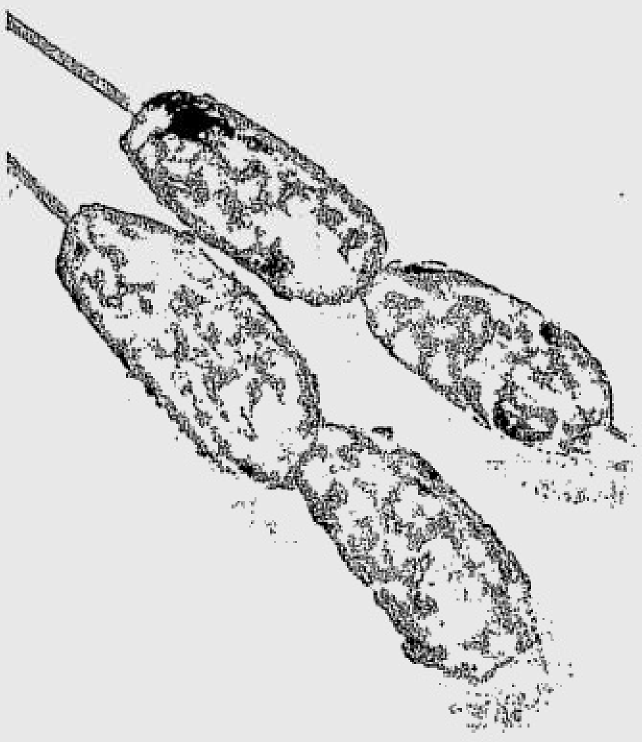
Tin-Tin. Ogie confesses he and Tin-Tin instantly gelled mainly because of the latter's pleasant attitude. "She is very generous. She lets me have the floor."

Claudine. Very down-to-earth. "*Walang kakyeme-kyeme sa katawan!*"

Winnie. Very frank. "Mataray," Ogie says with a laugh.

DID YOU KNOW...

Actress and TV host **Gretchen Barretto** maintains her sexy body and clear complexion by working out with a personal trainer daily at The Spa at the RCBC Tower on Ayala Avenue in Makati City. Barretto—the live-in partner of business magnate Tonyboy Cojuangco with whom she has a 9-year-old daughter, Dominique—is escorted by two bodyguards and a personal assistant.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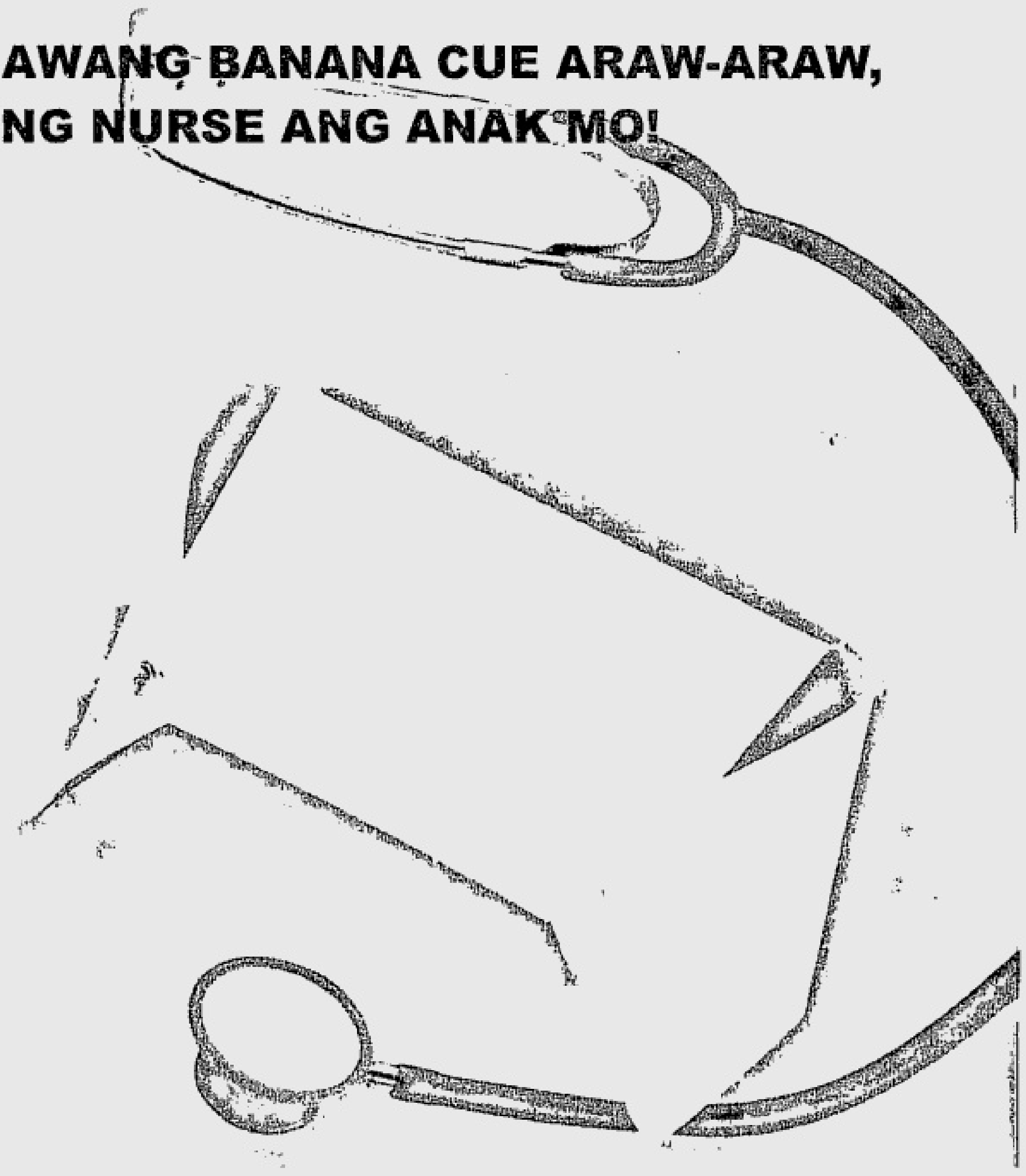
PWEDE NANG MAGING NURSE ANG ANAK MO!


Sa maliit na halaga, makasisiguro kayo sa kinabukasan ng anak niyo! Sa halagang ₱20 bawat araw sa loob ng 5 taon, may pondo na kayo para matupad ang pangarap niya! Pwede siyang mag-nurse...mag-seaman... mag-computer programmer... o kahit anong kurso na magbibigay ng magandang kinabukasan sa kanya. Ito ang pangako sa pamilya ninyo ng PHILAM PLANS, ang No. 1 pre-need company sa Pilipinas!

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My life...

From page C2

University) in Mandaluyong City.

"If I didn't take care of myself, I would have been living in the streets," she says. "A lot of actors suffered the same fate."

Nori borrowed money from Pag-Ibig to buy her own house, also in Marikina. Now that she has retired, she is renting out half of it.

Good Christians

She says that although she never married, she nevertheless felt the joys of raising children when she took care of her three nieces, Ochie, Izee, and Love Joy, and nephew David. But the four now have families of their own, so Nori is living alone.

Ochie, her husband and their two children live in San Pablo, Laguna. Izee is based in Australia. Love Joy lives with her husband in Marikina. David now lives abroad.

"I've had them since Ochie was three years old," Nori says. "They are children of my brother Sonny. I taught them how to be good Christians."

These days, Nori keeps herself busy by working with a religious group called Banal na Krus. She says she helped the group build a chapel in Rodriguez, Rizal.

Nori says she is open to the possibility of doing movies again.

"I want my experience to be a lesson to all young actors today," she says. "Freeing your family from poverty is a noble deed, but you also have to make sure you're not poor yourself when it's time for you to raise your own."

The 'decade's best retro party!'

IF YOU want the best retro party of this decade, you better be at the "Amazing Retro Revolution" today, Aug. 1, at the Le Pavillion along Roxas Boulevard.

"Amazing Retro Revolution" is one big jamming session with bands famous for their takes on music from the '60s and '70s. A huge central dance floor ensures that you'll have enough space to shake your booty.

To perform are the legendary RJ, who has evolved to RJ and Friends from RJ and the Riots in the '60s; Rocking Revival, the Moonstrucks, and Flintsones and the Gang.

Between regular sets, the Star Band will take center stage. The celebrity band is composed of Tirso Cruz, Michael de Mesa, Ricky Davao, Bobot Mortiz, among others.

There will also be the first Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Manila Awards to honor those who have made rock & roll a major stimulus in our culture. Surprise guest celebrities will be presenting the awards.

Tickets are available at Sarabia Optical outlets at the Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Manila, Greenbelt Mall 1, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa, and One Luna Lifestyle Center at Eastwood City.

Tickets are also available at Dish, Strumms Jupiter; Grilla Libis and Makati, and Famous Desserts Bar in Greenbelt 3.

For more details, call 634-8013 or 633-1645.

Doting dad Dingdong nominated in MTV Awards

SHOW TIME

DINGDONG Avanzado's "Here to Stay" is a nominee in this year's MTV Pilipinas Awards 2003.

"It's a complete surprise to me," says the singer. "It's an honor."

After the successful celebration of his 16 years in show business, held at the Music Museum last May, the nomination "definitely inspires me more to concentrate on my singing in recording and in live performances," exclaims Dingdong.

The MTV Pilipinas Awards 2003 will be held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig on Aug. 6, 2003.

As Dingdong continues to be busy with his shows inside and outside Metro Manila, he faces the challenge of playing the role of father to his and Jessa Zaragosa's new baby.

"It's a totally new experience for me, with my newly born baby Jayda," says the young father. "It's a fulfilling duty to directly take care of her, together with Jessa. What is nice about Jayda is she appreciates music already at her early age. She responds positively to the song 'Because of You' by Keith Martin.

"*Ang saya namin. Ang sarap ng* feeling!"

Fresh from the current hit "Walang Kapalit," Dingdong will soon promote his third single, "I Don't Want You to Go," from the album "Dingdong Avanzado: Here to Stay," produced by Star Records.

AVANZADO

MISALUCHA

BUSY LANI

August is a busy month for Lani Misalucha. Tonight, she performs at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, with fellow Primeline talent Gail Blanco as guest, for the benefit of the Philippine Military Academy Bath '89. Tomorrow, she's at The Forum at the Podium in Ortigas. On Aug. 8, she sings at Casino Filipino in Parañaque, with Marielle, another Primeline talent, in a project of Lions Club International. On Sunday, Aug. 3, she marks her birthday on GMA 7's "SOP." On Aug. 14, she has a solo show at the Al Nasr Leisureland in Dubai.

Fil-Am comic, producer . . .

From page C1

News of the backing out of Schneider and Devlin came even as the censors gave an X-rating to one of the films to be shown in the festival.

The MTRCB disapproved the screening of the Thai movie, "Blissfully Yours," because of sex and nudity.

The Makati City government, which is hosting the film festival for the third year this year, appealed to the MTRCB to reconsider its decision, saying that movies shown in the festival are art films and not pornographic.

On Wednesday, MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia said the festival organizers should make a formal appeal in writing instead of just talking about it in the media.

"It's funny what the newspapers say, that the Cinemanila organizers are appealing for the reversal of the board's decision, when we have yet to receive a letter from any of them," said Laguardia.

She also corrected reports that the MTRCB had also disapproved the French film "Swimming Pool." She said the MTRCB has not reviewed the movie.

Laguardia said a screening committee gave "Blissfully Yours" an X rating because it found a "copulation scene in the forest too long and realistic."

"But the sex scenes in movies like 'Blissfully Yours' should always be viewed in the context of the story," said Joey Salgado, of Makati City's information and corporate relations department.

Salgado said the banning of the film defeats the purpose of an international film festival like Cinemanila. "Now, more than ever, we need high-profile international events like these to encourage foreigners to visit the country," said Salgado.

"You can be artful without being distasteful," said Laguardia. "They (Cinemanila organizers) must know how to abide by our implementing rules and regulations."

Last year, the censors also gave the Mexican film "Y Tu Mama Tambien" and four other Cinemanila films an X rating on their initial viewing. But the films were eventually allowed to participate in the film fest after the Cinemanila organizers appealed to the MTRCB to reconsider its decision.

Fewer viewing options

From page C3

folk tale, "Ibong Adarna," on Aug. 1, 2 and 3 at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila. The play will also be performed in August at the AFP Theater in Quezon City, RFC Cinema Theater in Las Piñas City and Cabuyao Theater in Laguna.

Players include Heber Bartolome, Wowie de Guzman, Dekster Santos, Arkin da Silva, Eloy de Guzman, Kimberly Diaz and China Cojuangco. Call 899-5745.

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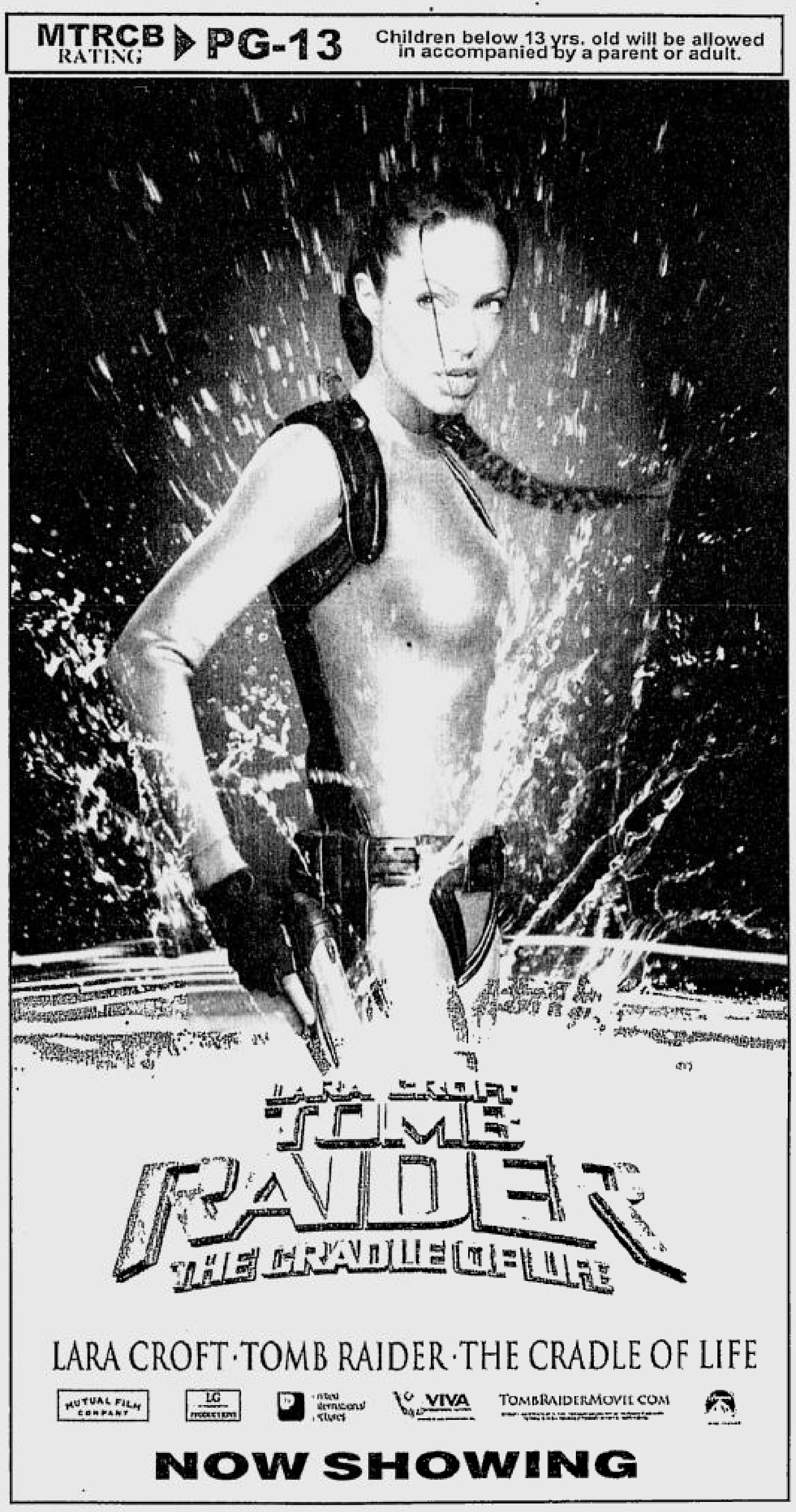

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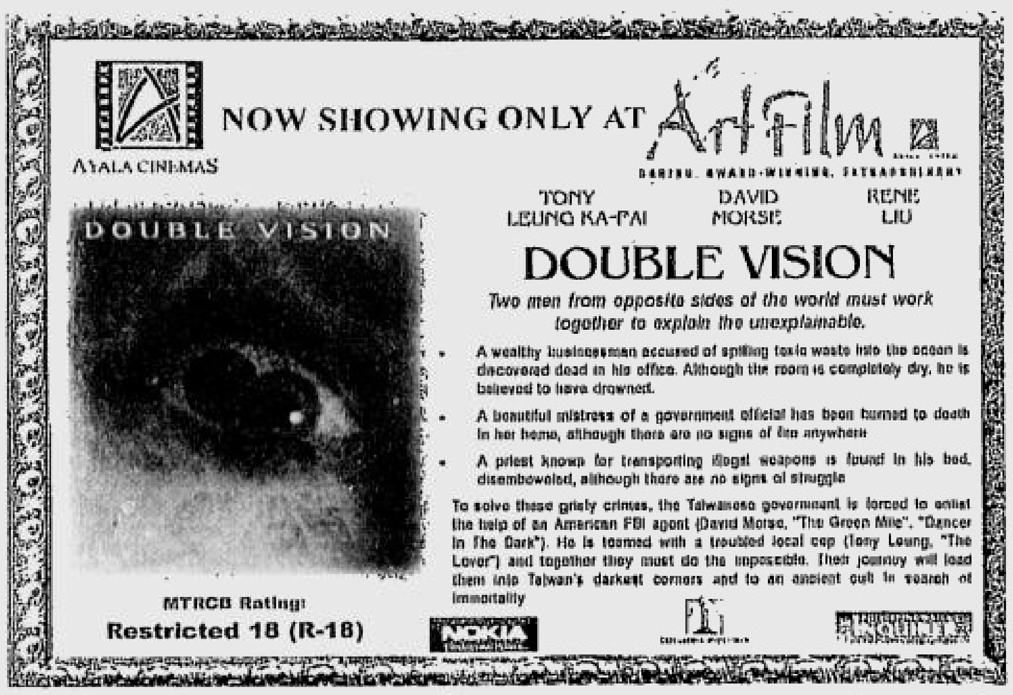

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- A priest known for transporting illegal weapons is found in his bed, disemboweled, although there are no signs of struggle
To solve these grisly crimes, the Taiwanese government is forced to enlist the help of an American FBI agent (David Morse, "The Green Mile", "Dancer in The Dark"). He is teamed with a troubled local cop (Tony Leung, "The Lover") and together they must do the impossible. Their journey will lead them into Taiwan's darkest corners and to an ancient cult in search of immortality
MTRCB Rating:
Restricted 18 (R-18)
NOKIA

Viewers preferred GMA 7's coup coverage, say ratings

GMA News and Public Affairs once again took television viewers to a ringside view of the crisis that took the country by surprise last weekend, according to a GMA 7 statement.

During Sunday's crisis, when rebel soldiers took over Oakwood at the Glorietta in Makati City, GMA reporters were among the first to arrive on the scene to provide up-to-date accounts of the ongoing situation.

Outside Oakwood that early Sunday morning, multi-awarded broadcast journalist Jessica Soho was already with the rebel soldiers and was already interviewing Capt. Antonio Trillanes, spokesperson of the group, said the GMA statement.

Jiggy Manicad and Susan Enriquez were also among the first few reporters to arrive early at the scene, it added.

Through the network's in-depth and objective reportage of the breaking news, TV viewers were able to get a closer look and have a better understanding of the ongoing crisis.

One big proof that viewers rely on GMA for "the most credible and impartial news reportage" is the ratings result released by AGB Philippines, the industry's official ratings provider, said the statement.

AGB Philippines overnight ratings said GMA 7's coverage of the Makati crisis, titled "Banta ng Kudeta," rated 10 percent higher than ABS-CBN's "Coup Alert," according to GMA.

GMA's "Banta ng Kudeta" was consistent with its 32 percent rating in the afternoon versus the 22 percent posted by ABS-CBN's "Coup Alert," the GMA statement added.

"ABS-CBN even had a special edition of 'TV Patrol,' but it only rated 21 percent compared with GMA's 32 percent," the statement said.

For the evening coverage, GMA's "Banta ng Kudeta" rated 29 percent versus the 19 percent posted by ABS-CBN's "Coup Alert," it added.

BRONZE HOPE. Two roses adorn a bronze bust of Hope in the courtyard of the Academy of Television Arts Sciences in Los Angeles, one day after the funnyman's death was announced. AFP

Bob Hope made $500 million and 7 million jokes

LOS ANGELES—Showman Bob Hope, who died Sunday at the age of 100, is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most honored entertainer in history.

He had some 2,000 plaudits, including the US Congressional Medal of Honor and a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II as well as 54 honorary doctorates.

Hope's show business career on stage, radio, film and television spanned 75 years, one of the longest in Hollywood history.

His 60-year contract with the NBC broadcasting network also earned him a Guinness listing for hosting the longest-running contract with a single media organization.

Hope starred in more than 50 movies, starting with 1937's "The Big Broadcast of 1938," and appeared in cameos for another 15, the last being "Spies Like Us" in 1985.

He logged more than 6 million miles (10 million kilometers) entertaining US troops in the United States and abroad, including during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War.

He played before an estimated 10 million servicemen and women at 700 bases and hospitals, and all but a handful of his famed radio variety shows were performed live before troops.

The US Navy named a new class of warship after him in May 1997, beginning with the USNS Bob Hope. The US Air Force named a new C-17 plane "The Spirit of Bob Hope."

In 1997, President Bill Clinton and the US Congress designated Hope an honorary veteran for his humanitarian services to the US Armed Forces, the first such honor given to a civilian.

An archive of around 7 million jokes written by himself and a team of writers is filed in the Los Angeles home he had lived in since 1937.

Hope presented the Academy Awards a record 18 times between 1939 and 1977, more than any other host in the 75-year history of the awards.

Despite his famed quip that "Oscar night at my house is called Passover," Hope has been honored by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences five times—with two honorary Oscars, two special awards and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award.

Hope had been married to Dolores Hope, a former singer, for 69 years. They have four adopted children and four grandchildren.

An astute businessman, Hope had amassed a fortune estimated at around $500 million.

Hope is reported to have entered into a little publicized and short-lived marriage to showgirl Grace Troxell in 1933. *AFP*

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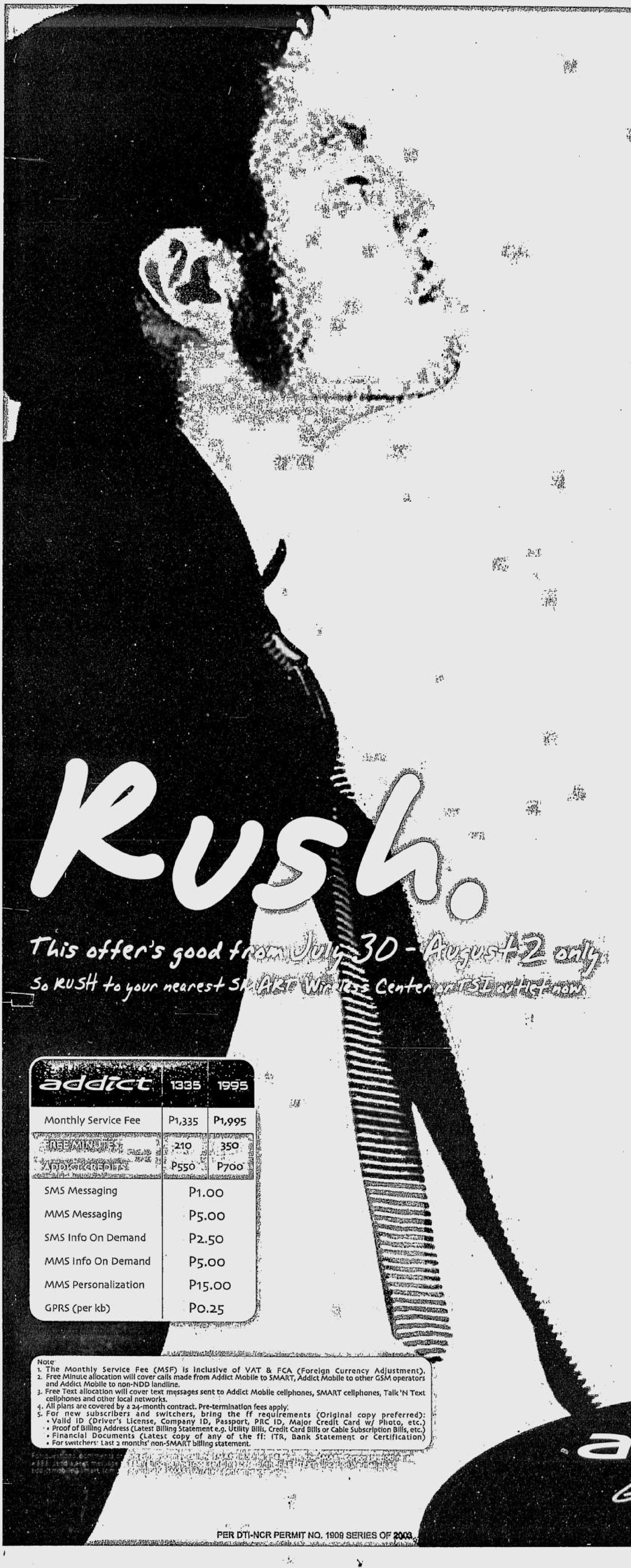

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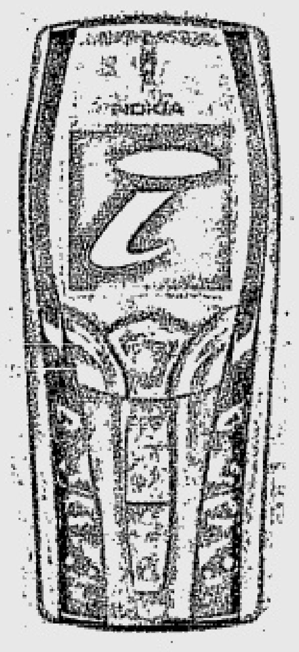

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Trend Spotting LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

WASHED out black flap jacket

Big little label now in RP

AMERICA'S biggest little label at the moment, Habitual Jeans appears to be rapidly becoming the favorite of well-known personalities like models Giselle Bundchen and Caroline Murphy.

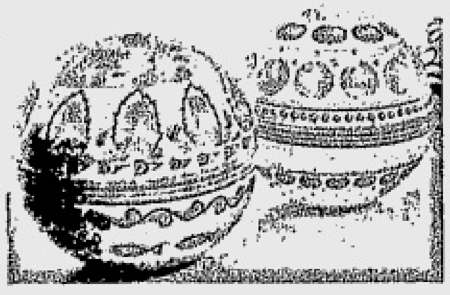
Now charming shoppers in the Philippine with its classic lines and subtle details, Habitual Jeans give customers the same kind of

BIG/ D2

In this issue

Interior designer Nardy Aquino is at home with colors

/E1



Living well with right accessories

/I1

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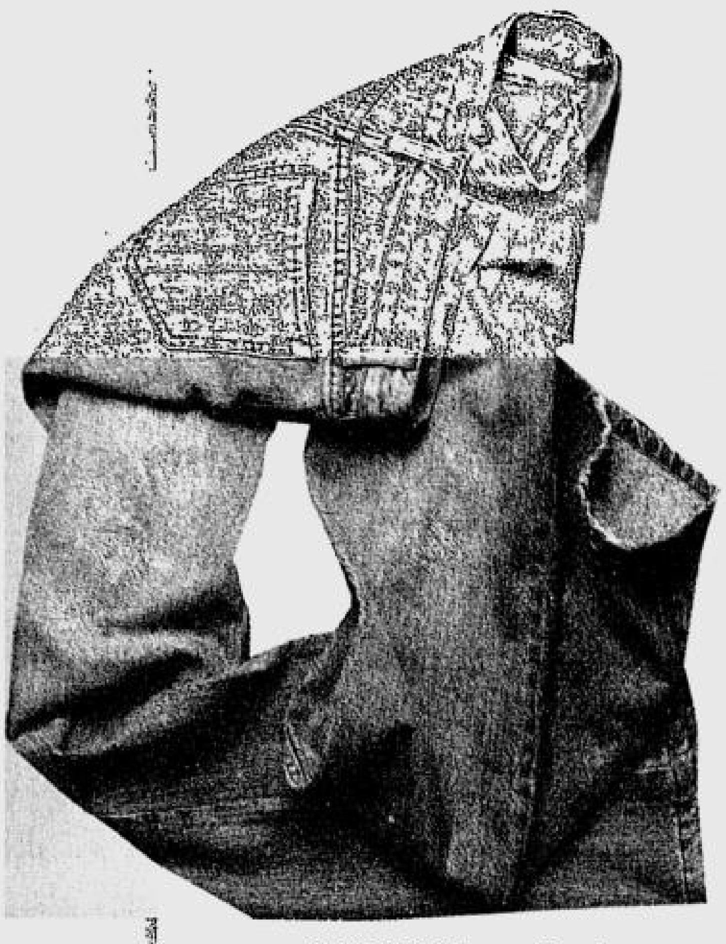
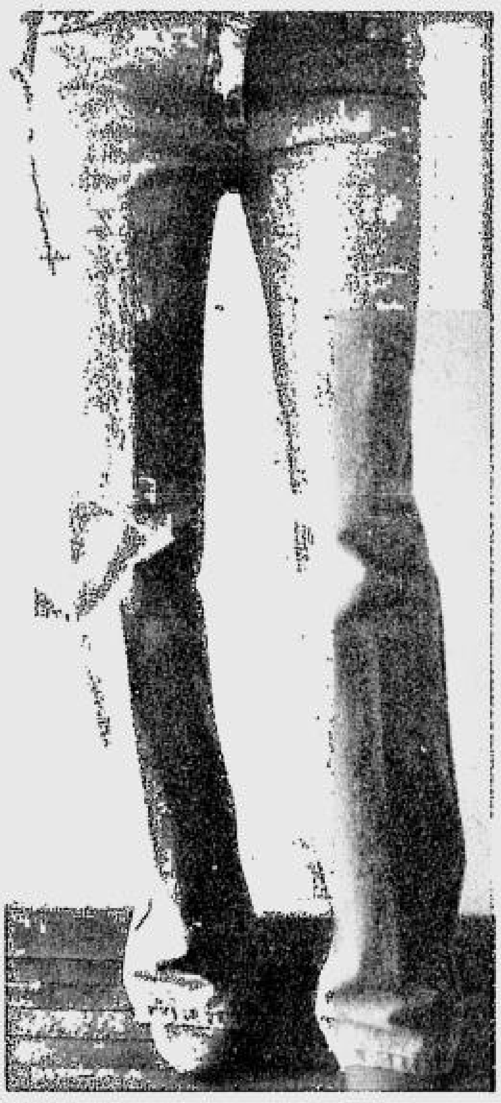
BROWN faded bison classic jacket. Grey ozzy zip back skirt



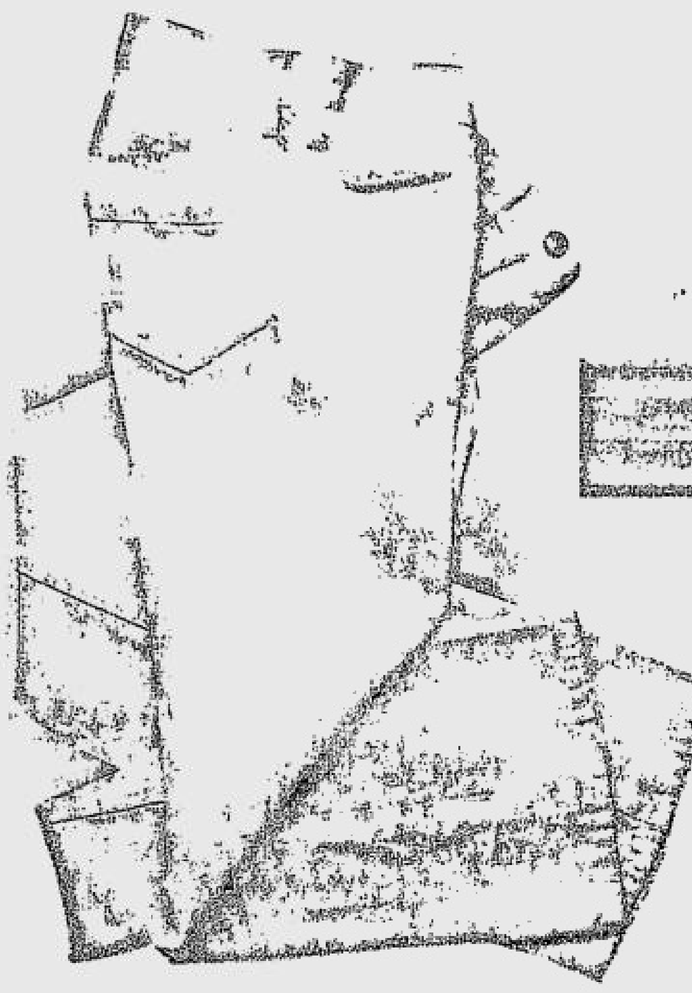
VINTAGE distressed classic stitch back pocket jeans

ROSE stash pocket jacket. Moss Welt pocket jean classic fit

Big little label now in RP



VINTAGE distressed classic jeans



DIRTY beige cut out pocket classic jeans

WASHED out black diagonal skirt

From page D1

satisfaction they get from better-known brands, but at a more affordable price.

Set up by former fashion editor Nicole Garrett and her fiance Michael Colovos, Habitual Jeans offers clothes that will suit every woman's mood and go with almost any style—bohemian, athletic, even *ukay- ukay* chic.

Habitual Jeans also offers bags for everyday use. Its slouch bags are perfect for client presentations and shopping, while the pocket bags are ideal for college fashionistas.

The brand is available at MIX, Greenbelt 3.

Putting your best foot forward

PARIS—There is a very popular French expression—*prendre son pied*—that literally means "take your foot," but actually translates as "experiencing the ultimate in sensual pleasure." So it may be hardly surprising that in the capital of fashion the foot has taken center stage, sweeping Paris off its feet and playing as big a part in the game of seduction as the figure or face.

"The foot is becoming an object of seduction," said a spokesman for No Nails, a thriving manicure-pedicure concern that opened a store in central Paris just over a year ago and now has three—one of many such shops mushrooming across the city.

In the past four or five years, fashionistas in the warm months have increasingly gone for open footwear featuring bare feet. But never has the "G-string for feet," better known as the thong, been so popular as it is today.

Originally designed to flip-flop across hot sand, the thong sandal now is the urban cruiser, so hot, so hip it is worn on city streets with summer suits and dresses, by day and by night, bejewelled, beflowered, even set high on platform heels.

But as any footsore walker knows, there can be nothing worse or less pleasing to the eye than raw painful feet, caked in blisters and corns or oozing footrot. Putting one's feet up is vital to getting off on the right foot.

Be it foot massages, special cosmetics, reflexology or just comfortable shoes, Parisians are looking after their soles as never before.

Euro Nature, an alternative medicine center that trains osteopaths and naturopaths, has had to multiply by two to three its classes in reflexology, a system of foot massage used to relieve tension and treat illness.

"Some people come seeking relief, others come to relax," said Jean-Louis Glaziou, one of its graduates.

"Beauty treatment for feet is becoming routine," said Emma Brennan of Artistic Nail, a parlor that offers basics as well as decorating nails with flowers, animals and the like. "People take out their summer shoes and realize their feet need help. Nice shoes need nice feet."

Cathy Marin, a 38-year-old who runs the hip Au Pied Leve pedicure and massage parlor, thanked changing lifestyle and fashion trends for the steady improvement in the foot business in the past 12 years.

"Our clientele used to be women from my mother's generation, women over 60 who had always worn uncomfortable high heels and who had sore feet. Now we get young people, aged 20 to 35, who come just for the pleasure of a massage, or who want their feet to look good," she said.

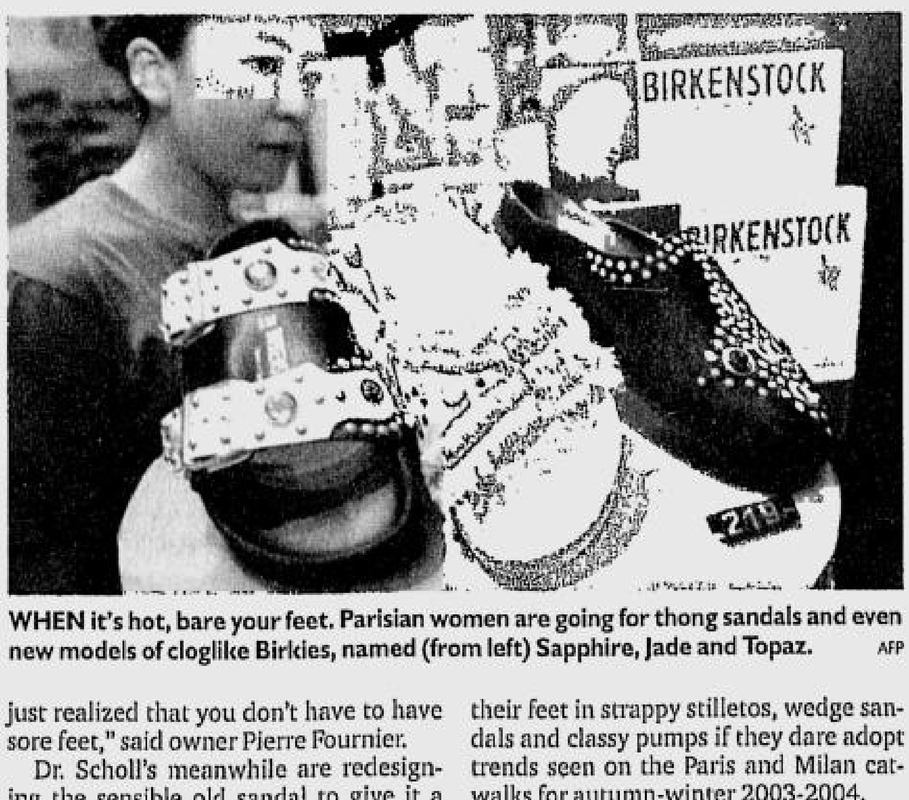
The Asian influence on French trends and the importance of feet in Asian cultures also had helped propel the foot into the spotlight, Marin noted.

The Scandinavian and German affection for comfortable shoes also has invaded Paris, with shoes once derided as ugly clodhoppers fit for the old and the ailing now selling like hotcakes.

In the trendy Montmartre district, a rack of cork-soled cloglike Birkenstock sandals stood half-empty in the Sausalito shoestore. In the even trendier Marais, staff at the Anatomica shop of comfortable shoes faced long queues and steady phone calls as the latest batch of sandals were delivered in boxes stacked on the floor.

"No, no, no! We can't put them aside. We just can't keep up with the demand," said one harried salesman.

The popularity of health and comfort brands such as Birkenstock, Dr. Scholl's or Berkemann is such now in Paris that an anti-Birkenstock website has been set up decrying "the threat to French aesthetics" of "this terribly hideous" phenomenon "once restricted to a handful of other countries." "Parisians have only just realized that you don't have to have sore feet," said owner Pierre Fournier.



WHEN it's hot, bare your feet. Parisian women are going for thong sandals and even new models of cloglike Birkies, named (from left) Sapphire, Jade and Topaz. AFP

Dr. Scholl's meanwhile are redesigning the sensible old sandal to give it a modern touch, using denims and heels and pastels to draw new customers.

"Feet have become essential to one's well-being," said Muriel Nicolas, the company's press officer in Paris. "First it was the face, then it was the body and now it's the foot." What happens after summer? From October on, fashion-conscious women will be able to showcase their feet in strappy stilletos, wedge sandals and classy pumps if they dare adopt trends seen on the Paris and Milan catwalks for autumn-winter 2003-2004.

At Christian Dior, for example, John Galliano offered sky-high platform heels with biker-girl buckles and silver studs, while Marc Jacobs opted for more subdued crocodile pumps at Louis Vuitton. And for those not so keen on wiggling their toes, sexy thigh-high boots are due to be a must-have.

AFP

How to dress up Rubenesque figures

From page D4

hues. Express yourself through the use of color, but if you are not confident enough, try mixing your brights with your basic black pants, skirt or suit.

- Avoid large prints, busy details and tent-like clothes that will only make you look sloppy and bigger.
- Choose clothes that skim but do not hug your body.
- Proper-fitting underwear can help streamline your body, so invest in a good bra and girdle or tummy-control panty.
- Accentuate your best features. For example, if you have a pretty face, wear a collared top in a flattering hue that will draw attention to it. Or if you have nice, shapely legs, wear a skirt.
- Wear accessories that are proportionate to your body size. And keep in mind that more often than not, accessories draw more attention to a body part, rather than camouflaging it. It would also be wise to wear just one bold piece, not an array of baubles.
- Never underestimate the importance of good grooming. The right haircut, makeup and personal hygiene can help you look and feel more pulled together and feminine.
- Always choose clothes that are comfortable and that fit your personality.
- Be confident!

Try these stores: Luscious at Goldcrest, Tubby at the Shangri-la Plaza, Marks and Spencer, Sari-Sari

Becky Kho

Editor in chief, Good Housekeeping

- Don't hide yourself in baggy clothes and dark colors. The more you hide, the more it becomes obvious you're trying to conceal something. Just wear what you enjoy. Wear what makes you feel pretty. Don't try to fit into a smaller size either. Treat your body with respect and buy the size in which it can move comfortably.
- Pants can sometimes look awkward on big frames. Skirts may be more flattering on you. Pick those that come in soft fabrics so they can skim your body rather than hug it tight. Knee-length and A-line cuts looks good on anyone, whether you have chubby legs or not. If you like pants, go for bootleg cuts, which are often slimming.
- When it comes to jeans, opt for low-rise or hipsters, especially if you have a full tummy. This way, the jeans don't hug your waistline and draw attention to your belly. Be picky when shopping for these low-rise jeans, however, as some of them can tend to go too low. Test it by sitting inside the dressing room.
- Long-sleeved shirts are cool options if you like a sleek look, but avoid stiff or wrinkle-prone fabrics. How about one with sheer sleeves or a shirt in silky textures? Look for pieces that flow with your shape.
- Play with details. There are lots of ways to look sexy or feminine without having to be skinny. Have fun with wide boatnecks, off-shoulder tops, asymmetric cuts, lace necklines, and deep V necklines.

Check out Good Housekeeping's plus-size fashion guide (July 2003) where boutique owners and designers share plenty of advice and solutions on dressing up a full figure.

Try these stores: Luscious, Faro in Shangri-la Plaza, The Landmark, SM Department Store, SM Megamall. Bazaars are fun places to hunt for plus-sized finds; many stalls sell export overruns. Since they're mostly American brands like Ann Taylor, Express, and Old Navy, the cuts are usually more generous and the sizes usually go up to size 18 or 20. There are plenty of cropped pants, cute skirts, and all kinds of day blouses. A good place to start is the monthly bazaar at The Fort in Makati.

Tara Santos and Malu Fernandez

Owners, Luscious at Goldcrest in Ayala Center

- Wear bright-colored clothes. The misconception that full-figured women should only wear dark colors—black in particular—is a thing of the past.
- Accessorize! It is important to accessorize, but be sure that the accessories you choose are proportionate to your body size.
- Wear the proper underwear. The right bra will definitely make a big difference.
- Show some skin by wearing V-neck or scoop neck tops and skirts. Stop covering yourself by wearing big polo shirts and loose pants.
- Avoid tight-fitting clothes that accentuate your extra curves, and conversely, clothes that are too loose because these tend to make you look bigger.
- Don't wear clothes with large prints like giant polka dots or bold floral and vertical stripes.
- Most importantly, be comfortable in whatever you are wearing, because this will show.

Donna Cuna-Pita

Fashion Editor, Cosmopolitan Magazine

- Don't hide under loose, tent-like clothes.
- Choose skimming clothes or structured pieces.
- Avoid too many busy details such as ruffles, big prints and the like.
- Don't be afraid to try trends. Being stylish goes beyond body types.

Try these stores: Tubby, Luscious, Maxi, SM, Landmark and Robinsons department stores, Marks and Spencer.

Pia Regala-Hebron

Rustan's in-house designer for Jill and Luna

- It would be wise to wear one color from top to bottom and to avoid large prints.
- For pants, look for items with stretch for a better fit.
- Choose your hemlines and necklines carefully to cover your flaws or reveal your best features.
- Keep the silhouettes of your clothes very clean and streamlined to appear elongated and taller.
- Don't forget to accessorize to show your style.
- Remember, plus-sized women can wear practically anything they like as long as the fit is right and they are confident with what they are wearing.

Try these stores: Rustan's is a great place to shop for plus-sized clothing, as well as Marks and Spencer.

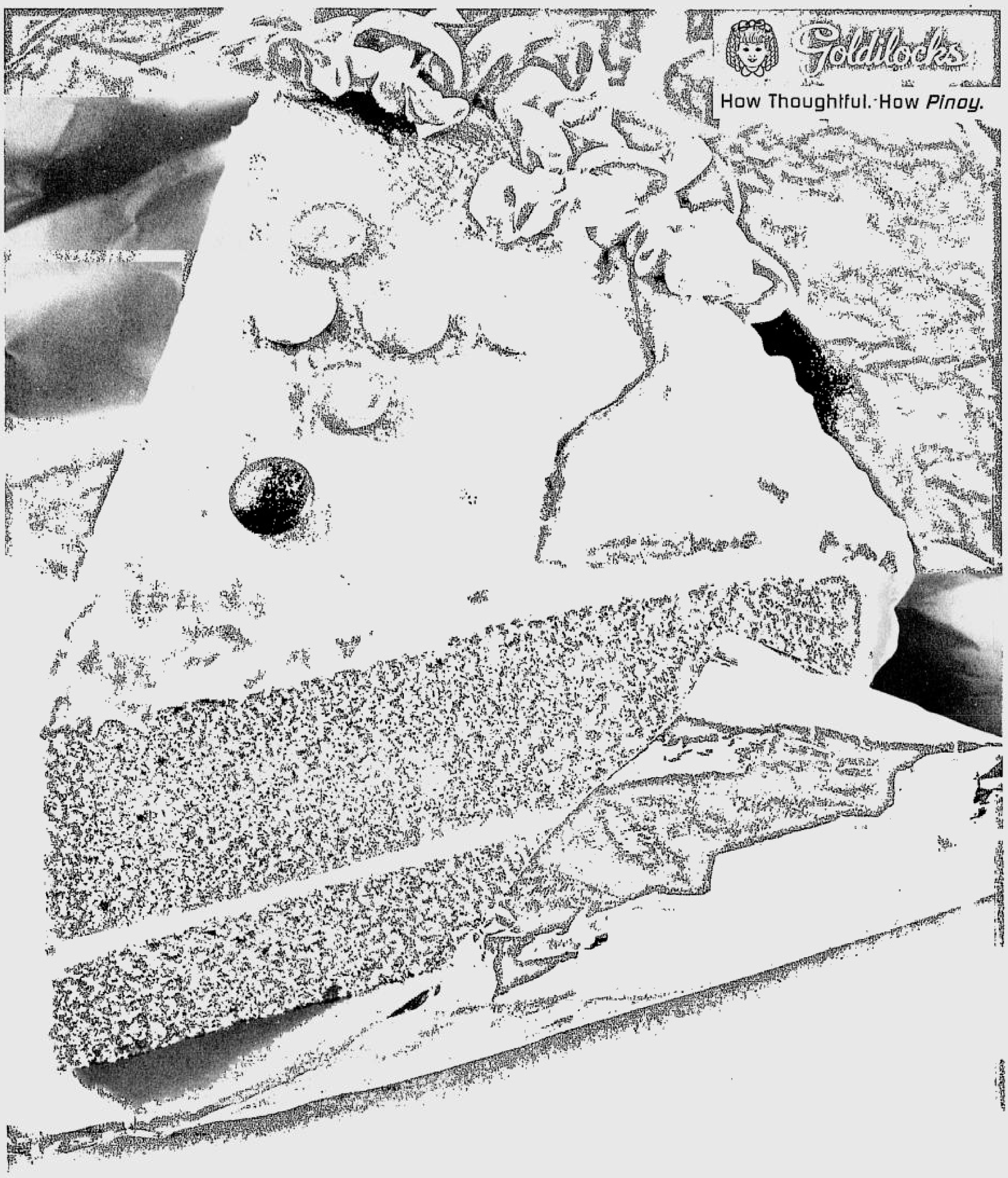
Maritess See-Lazaro

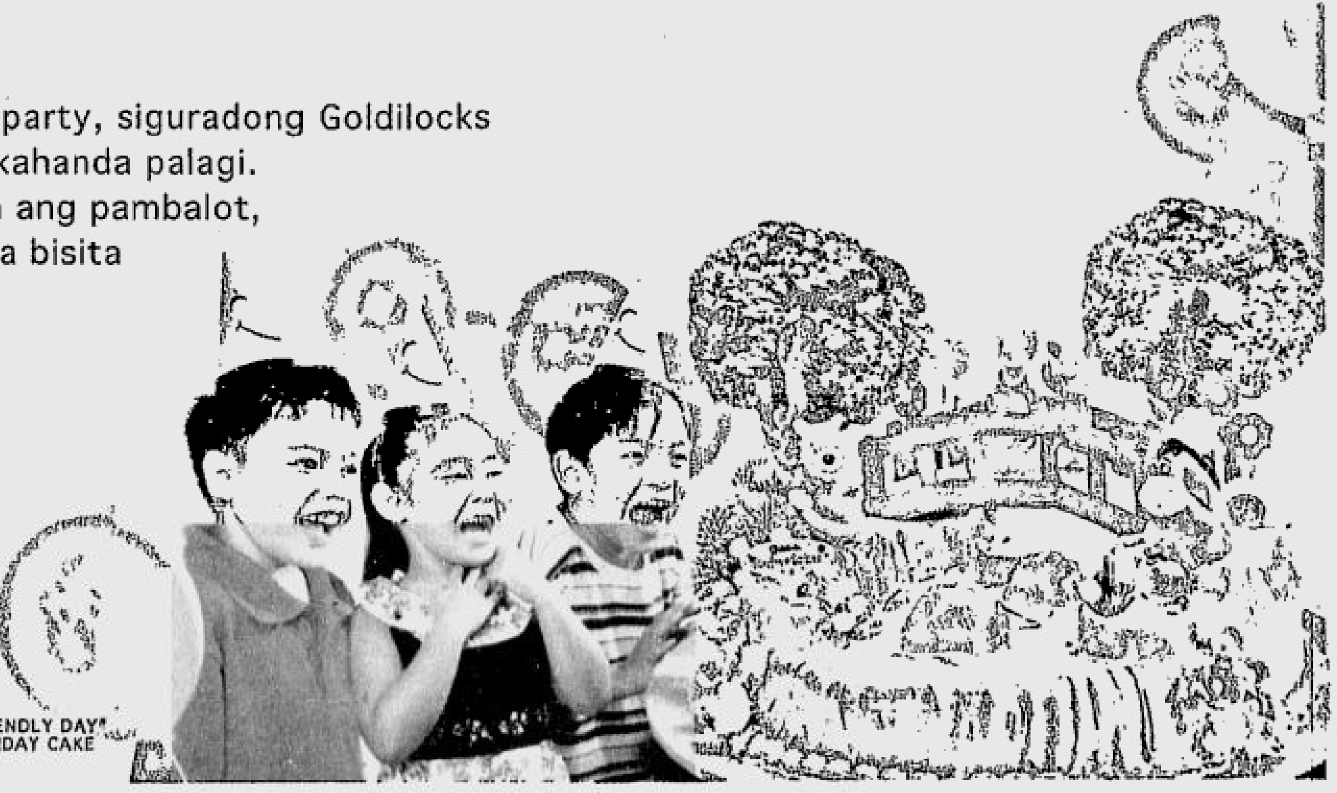
General Manager, Tubby at the Shangri-la Plaza

- Dark colors are tempting because of its flattering nature, but why not lighten up this season by wearing whites or pastels?
- Patterns are great for disguising most flaws because they give the eye another point of focus. This is also true for diagonal lines that are not too bold.
- Stay away from prints that are big and bold, unless they serve as an accent to your whole outfit.
- Disguise your tummy by avoiding pleated pants or skirts and voluminous heaps of fabric, which will accentuate rather than hide your imperfections.
- Avoid both baggy and tight-fitting bottoms. Stick to well-cut trousers and straight leg pants that can slim and smoothen bumps.
- A fitted shirt with tailored three-fourth sleeves can disguise big upper arms and show off slim forearms and wrists.
- Fashion is for everybody. Don't wait to live until you have lost weight. Celebrate your self, your life and your beauty now!

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

PLUS-SIZED women can wear practically anything they like as long as the fit is right. Clothes by Luscious





Goldilocks
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"A FRIENDLY DAY"
BIRTHDAY CAKE

How to dress up Rubenesque figures

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I DON'T know how else to say this so I guess I'll just be blunt. I am extremely overweight! No, not just chubby, fleshy or pleasantly plump, but rather, Oprah-like at her biggest! My problem is that I can't find any ready-to-wear fashionable clothes in the local market. Oftentimes, I find tent- or parachute-like designs that make me feel like a blimp! I would like to feel and look stylish and feminine, in spite of my size. Do you have any advice on how I should dress or choose my clothes? Can you also recommend stores where I can find plus-sized fashionable clothing?

"Oprah at her biggest" was always dressed fashionably, so take your cue from her. She is wise enough to know that style goes beyond body types and that attitude coupled with a basic fashion sense are what count.

She probably has a battery of stylists, you might think. Well, it's probably true, but without the confidence and ease that she constantly projects (whether she's at her thinnest or most blimp-like), the clothes she wears would be nothing but rags.

To help you out, I've assembled your own team of stylists, so to speak, to give you tips on how to dress up your Rubenesque figure, where to shop for fashionable plus-sized clothing and to remind you that it's really all in the attitude.

Apple's tips and picks

- Choose the fabric of your clothing wisely. Tightly woven fabric, even when it's lightweight, will hold its shape better. Avoid materials that hug and cling like silk jersey.
- As a general rule, dark colors are slimming, but don't let this stop you from wearing other

HOW/ D3

Style goes beyond body types; what counts is attitude coupled with a basic fashion sense

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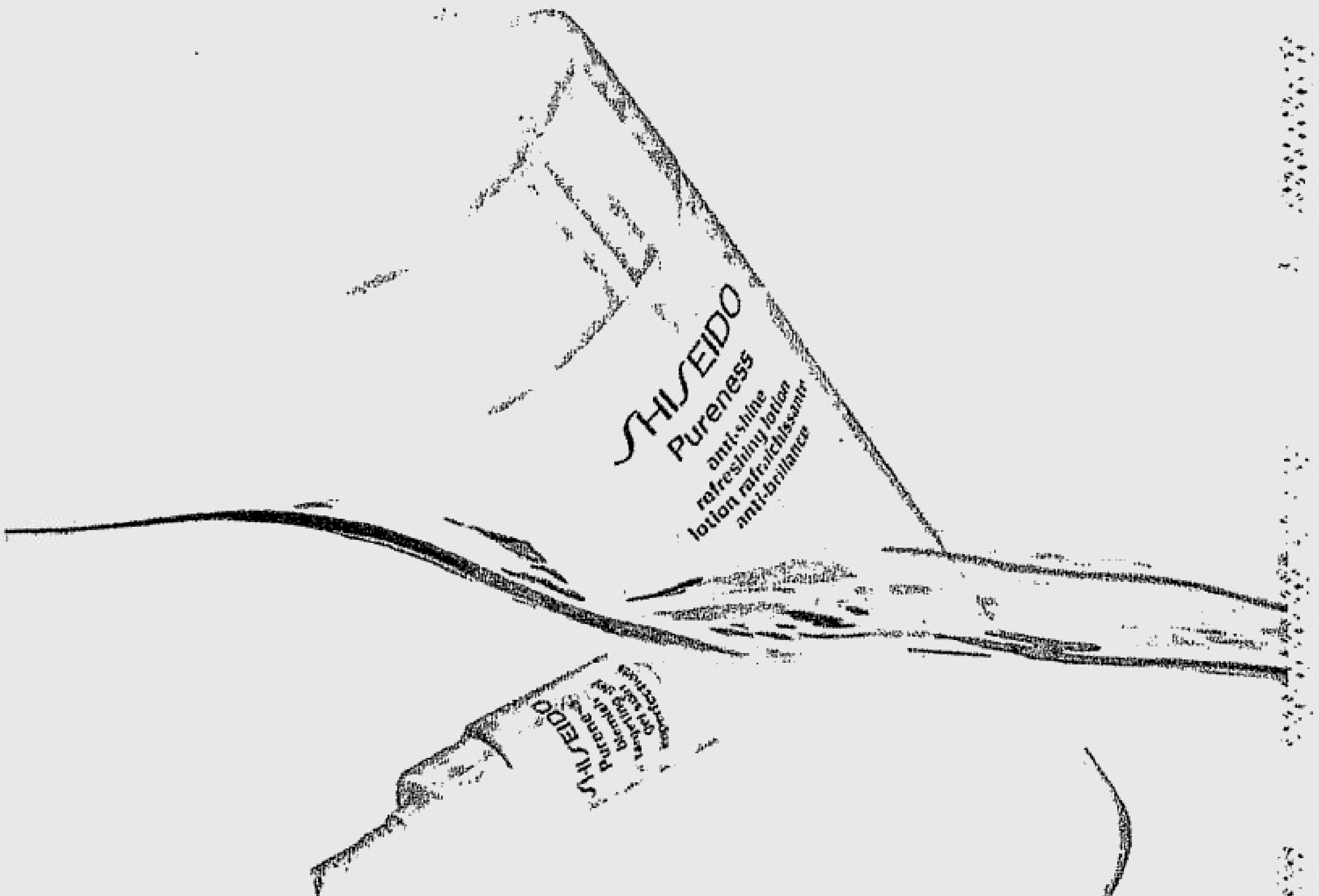
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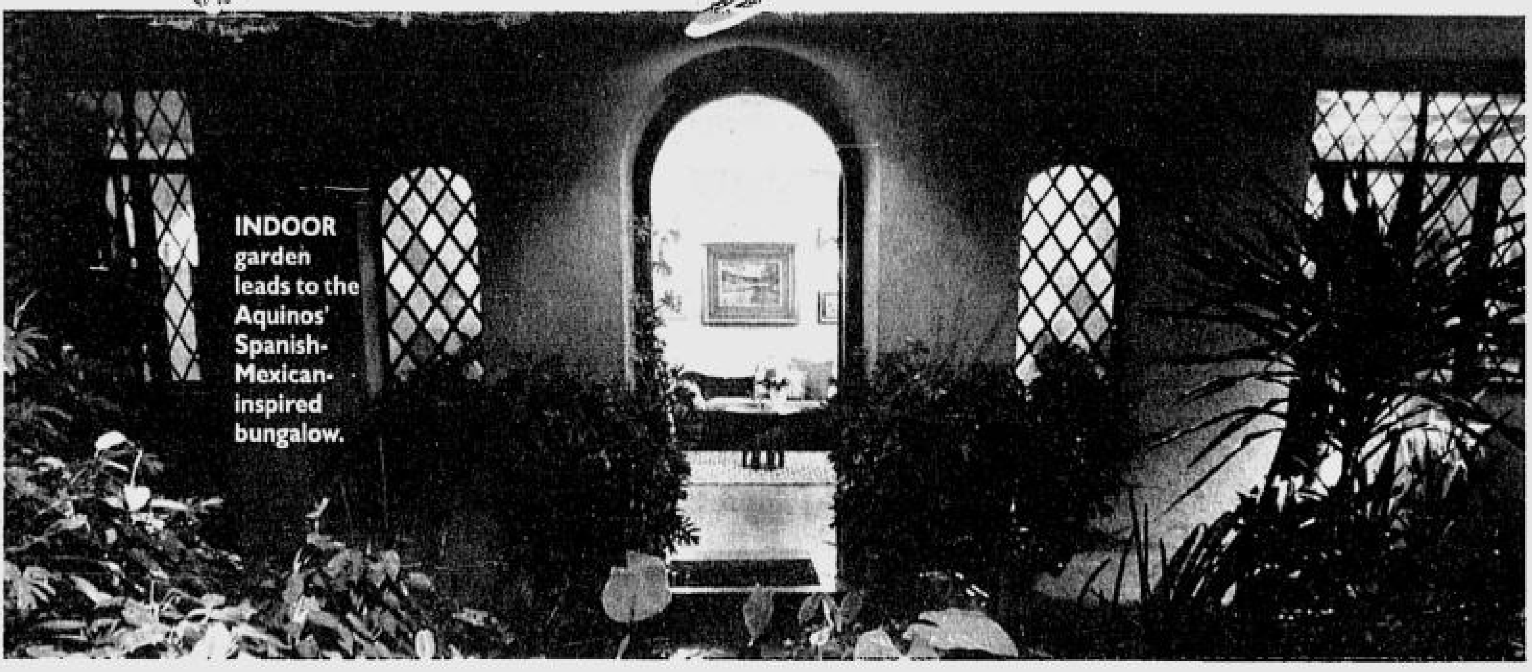

INDOOR garden leads to the Aquinos' Spanish-Mexican-inspired bungalow.

At home with colors

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

INTERIOR designer Nardy Aquino practices what he preaches. As a teacher of Color Theory at the Philippine School of Interior Design for almost 30 years now, he makes a colorful point through his home in Quezon City.

"Color theory deals mainly with the use of coloring in interior design," says Aquino, who also holds office amid an indoor garden in the same Spanish-Mexican-inspired bungalow he once shared with his late parents and three brothers. "Aside from matching the right colors, it [subject] also tackles psychology of colors, color scheming and colors for effect."

Aside from changing and rearranging existing furniture pieces regularly, Aquino makes it a point to adopt a new color scheme even before the next season rolls in. Before the first sign of rain in May, for instance, his "achromatic" setup had to go in favor of a livelier and more colorful ensemble of artworks, furniture and accent pieces.

According to Aquino, while summer is all

AT HOME/ E2

TEXTURE and movement extend to the artworks: painting by Roy Veneracion, glass vases by Ion Memtoy, and kinetic sculpture by Arnel Borja.

AN ALTAR table with Nardy Aquino's collection of smiling Buddhas and a framed mirror "rounds" a corner of the living room.

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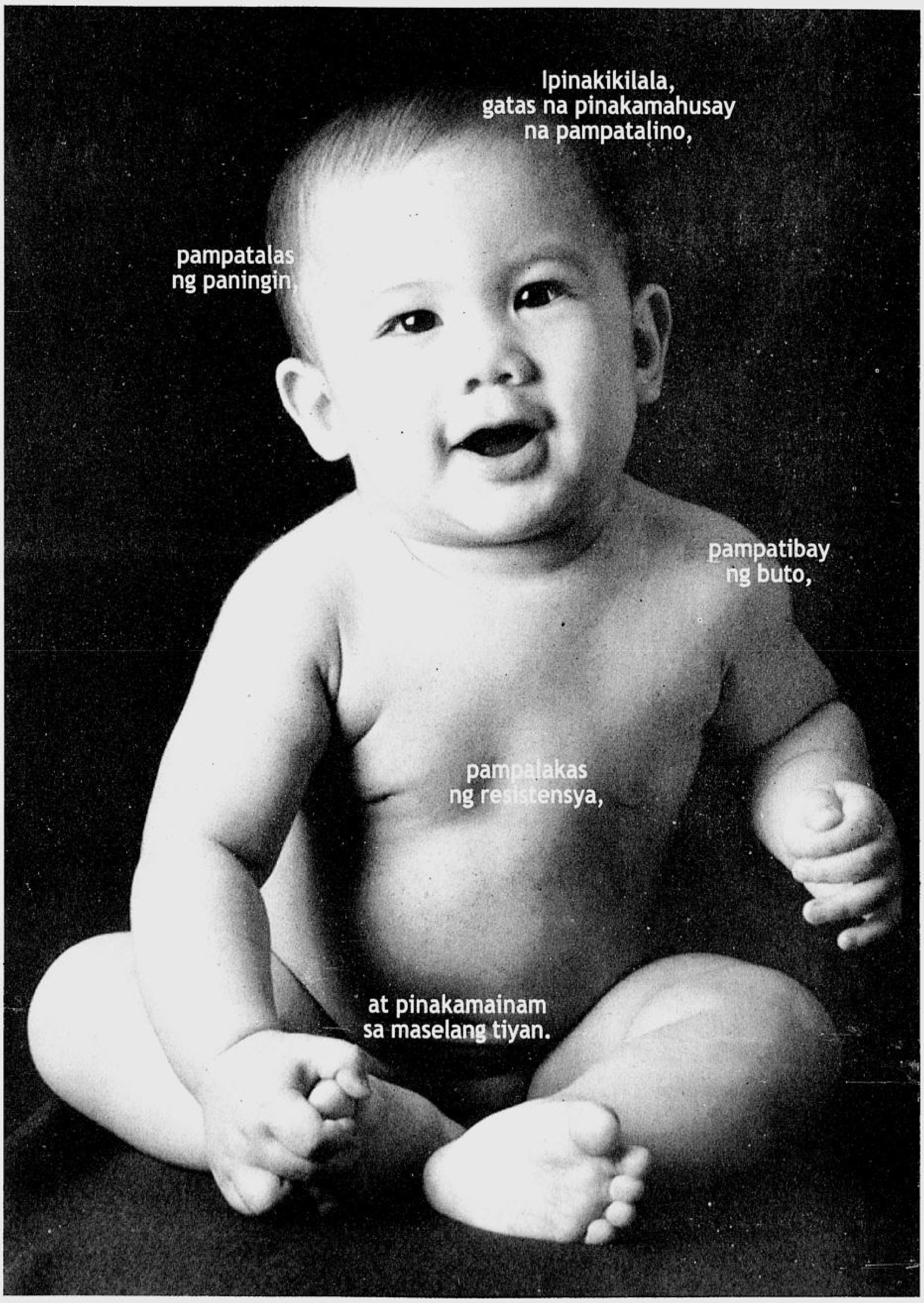

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TABLECLOTH matches seat covers.

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At home with colors

INTERIOR designer Nardy Aquino

To Nardy Aquino, color theorizing starts at home

From page E1

about nature and minimalism, rainy days herald a palette of rich colors and a certain degree of ostentation short of what one sees during the Christmas season.

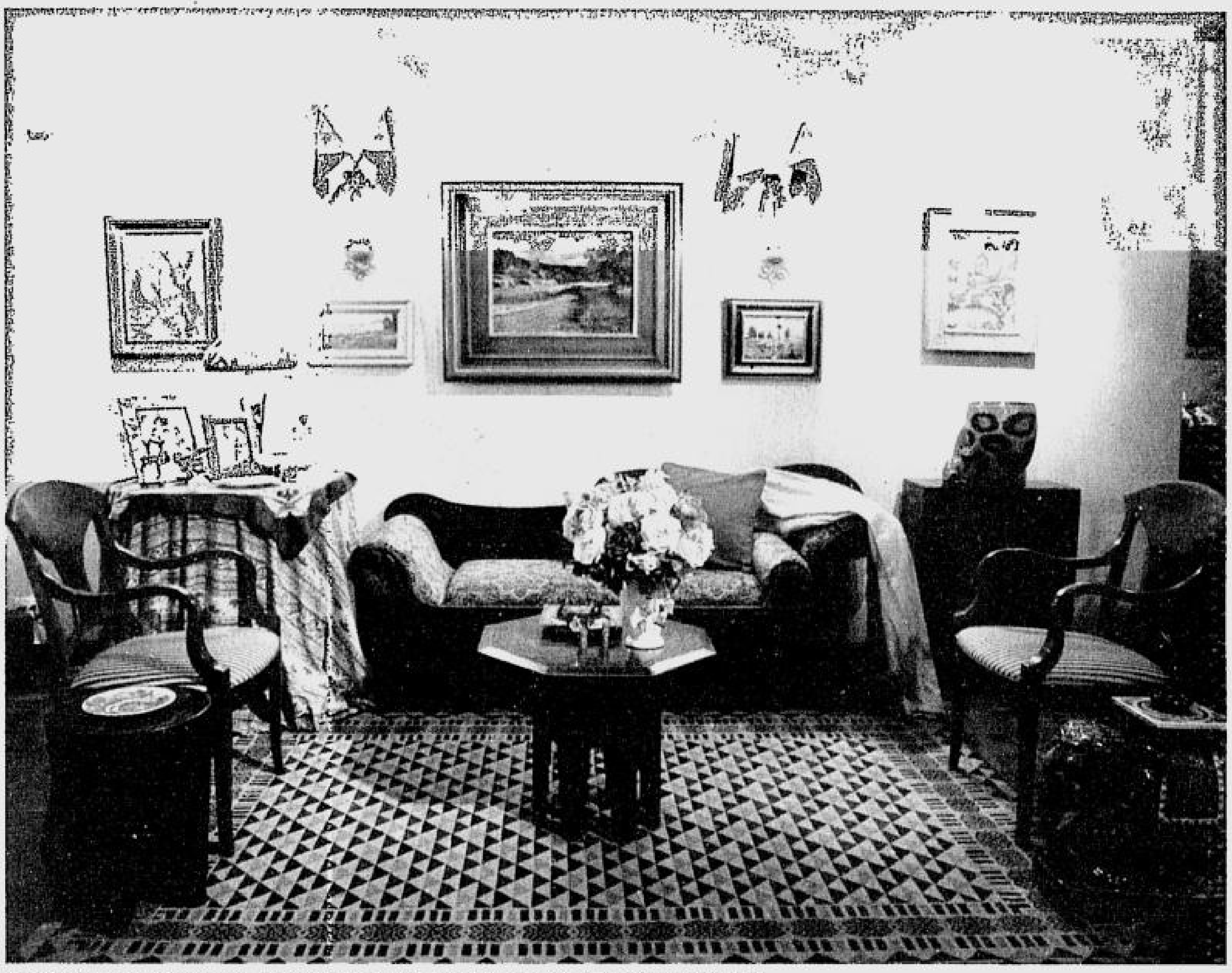
"You should come and visit my home this Christmas," says Aquino, who, with the help of his two maids, sets up at least seven Christmas trees even before Halloween is over. "Christmas is all about abundance, not profusion. This [setup] is nothing compared to what you will see during the holidays."

Strong colors

Aquino set aside pieces in white and earth tones in favor of items in red, yellow and orange. These and other "strong colors," as he describes them, are apparent in the covered sofa by the living room and several hand-blown glass vases by Romanian artist Ion Memtoy.

Pockets of emerald-green are also evident in several abstract and impressionist paintings that hang on the living-room wall, particularly the biggest piece by artist Roy Veneracion. As soon as evening sets in, Aquino makes use of directional lights of halogen to draw visitors' attention to the artworks.

"White and other neutral shades are cool to the eyes during summer," says Aquino. "But strong colors are more apt as soon as it starts to rain, as they're guaranteed to chase the rainy-day blues away. The look is both modern and chopsuey-eclectic."



SITTING area in the living room reveals both the owner's eclectic and nationalistic sides.

A Burmese lacquer ware brimming with faux chrysanthemums in yellow and orange, for instance, acts as a perfect foil to a pair of French oval-back chairs upholstered in Versace-inspired leopard print in the living room.

Modern touches are confined to, among other pieces, several abstract paintings and a coffee table with mirrors.

For some reason, Aquino seems reluctant to leave several corners bare. He thus "rounded" them diagonally through a number of devices: A Philippine altar table featuring his collection of laughing Buddhas and a framed mirror sit in one corner of the living room, while a woven banner hangs in another corner leading to the bedrooms.

Bold artworks spill over into the dining area, where a painting by Ang Kiukok and a collage in oil and cloth by Mario Parial hang. The latter, which has lovely women as subjects, is said to be one of Parial's first works .

"Parial's work is likely to stay here for good," says Aquino. "It took me sometime, however, to figure out what to do with Ang Kiukok's painting of a snarling dog."

As if his characteristic angular strokes weren't enough, Ang Kiukok made the dog more threatening by revealing the animal's sharp, jagged teeth and giving it a pair of eyes in distinct shades of deep blue and fiery orange. Aquino tries to tone down the striking piece by placing it between a bunch of faux flowers and fruits.

Aquino, however, has to hand it to the National Artist. "His painting never fails to draw the attention of visitors for various reasons," he says. "You certainly can't ignore his style and choice of colors."

WATERCOLOR painting by Chris Mirang hangs in Aquino's bedroom.

Fabrics

Aquino's daring ideas on combining colors extend to his choice of tablecloth—a bouquet of pastel blooms with a maroon background. Each chair, from the seat to the backrest, is covered in the same fabric. He can change seat covers in a snap since they're detachable. Choosing a particular print depends on the season and, of course, his whims.

Some guys wear their nationalism on their sleeves. Aquino displays them on his walls. Philippine flags, remnants of an Independence Day party he hosted for friends and family almost two months ago, have found their way on walls and vases by the living room. A sitting area by the English garden has for its backdrop a huge Philippine flag.

"If we celebrate the birth of our loved ones, why not celebrate the birth of our nation?" says Aquino, who whips up an all-Filipino fare during such occasions. "By the way, it's also a good excuse to party."

The interior designer is only being true to his name. His late father, Servillano, was an older brother of slain former senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino. That makes him a nephew of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Rep. Butz Aquino, and a "proud" first cousin of Kris Aquino despite the latter's scandal-prone lifestyle.

Since Aquino loves to host parties regularly, he had several tables and chairs permanently placed in a covered area by the driveway. The setup, which faces the English garden, has a homey feel to it, thanks to several elements: pastel-colored tablecloths, watercolor paintings by the wall and a sitting area with throw pillows and glazed ceramic pieces bursting with colors and prints .

"The right combination of colors brings out a person's personality," says Aquino. "Each individual reacts differently to a certain color, but people who live in homes with bright interiors are [generally] happy."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

NICHE holds images sacred and personal to the owner.

PRINT on print, color on color make for a strong statement.

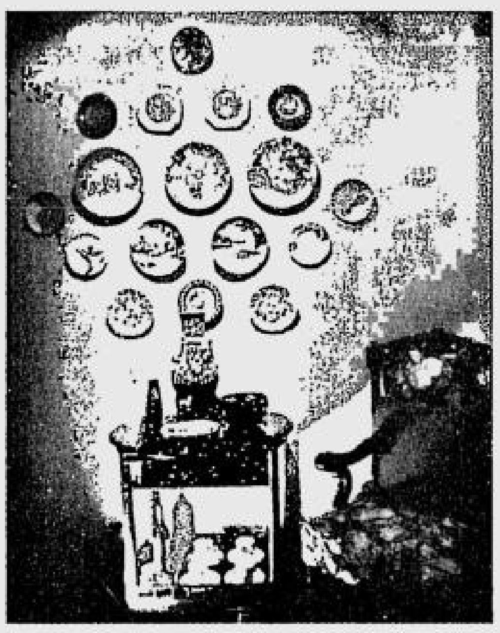
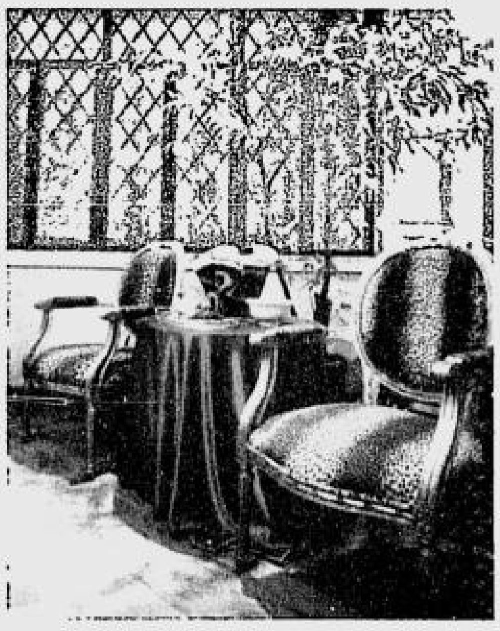


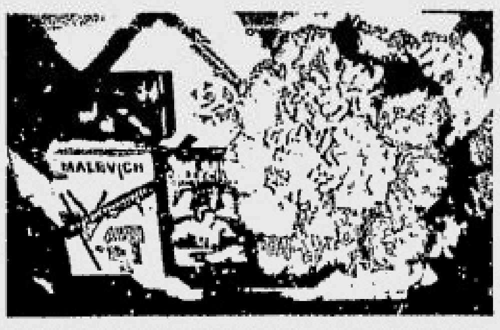
PLATE collection used to belong to Aquino's late mother.



PAIR of French oval-back chairs in Versace-inspired leopard print

SITTING area by the English garden has for its backdrop a Philippine flag.

PICTURES of deceased and living relatives, including that of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino



FAUX chrysanthemums set on a coffee table with mirrors

PAOLO Picones, Mojo Javier, Gino Macapagal and Menchu Antigua

CHIQUI Veneracion, video director Ed Lejano and Nash

DONNIE Ramirez, Lito Balquiedra and Bong Recio

CHESKA Gacrama, Amiel Cabanlig, Pascal Grieco and Judah Paolo

Gone fishing in Libis

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

CO-OWNERS **Lito Balquiedra** and **Emmarose Policarpio** laid out recently a long table "al fresco" for about 40 friends at their seafood restaurant called Somethin' Fishy.

Cause for celebration? The restaurant has been an instant hit. Within a short period of nine months, the place has been catering to more than 600 hungry stomachs a day. The owners have even expanded the space to accommodate more customers.

Hot dishes here include the crispy tuna tail, delicious grilled salmon belly, *sisig* and *inihaw na pusit* and swordfish.

According to EmmaRose, on rainy days guests are assured of air-conditioned comfort inside the sprawling restaurant, which is decorated with exotic stuffed sea creatures donated for display by game-fishing friends.

We gorged on "tinomak" (minced meat swimming in coconut sauce) and crispy *pata* and stayed behind for drinks at the third level. Eventually that floor will be converted into a club area where the lights will dim at night and new world music (a.k.a chillout sounds) will be spun by well-known DJs.

A new design motif consisting of mobile fiberglass fishes hanging from the ceiling makes the third level look like a huge aquarium.

Among the celebrities who have sampled the Eastwood Libis restaurant are **Zsa Zsa Padilla** with daughter **Karylle**, coach **Joel Banal** with his sons and colleagues, **Claudine Barretto** and **Raymart Santiago**, new ABS-CBN discovery **Judah Paolo**, 89.9 disc jockeys **Mojo Jojo**, **Logan** and the woman with the great voice and great legs, DJ **Miles**.

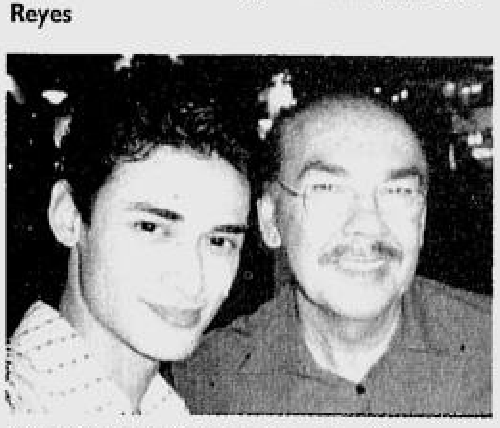
EMMAROSE Policarpio

ZSA ZSA Padilla with daughter Karylle

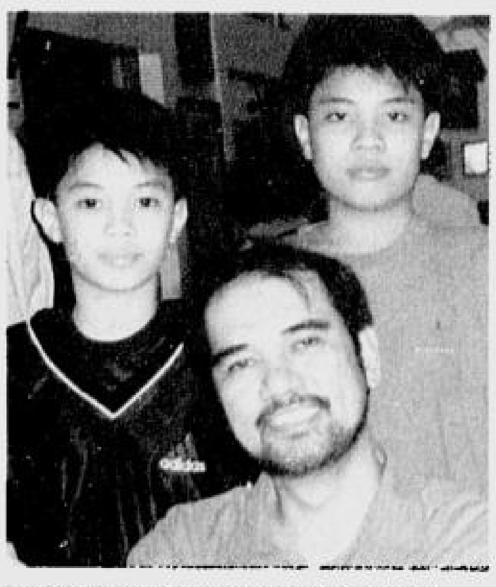
89.9 RADIO DJ Miles

MIKE Salomon of Wiseguys

BATANGAS Gov. Cong Mandanas with Gina Reyes



PRESENT and future doctors Boy Vasquez (right) and Albert Adrales



BASKETBALL coach Joel Banal and sons Rafael and Gabriel

Robinsons Department Store

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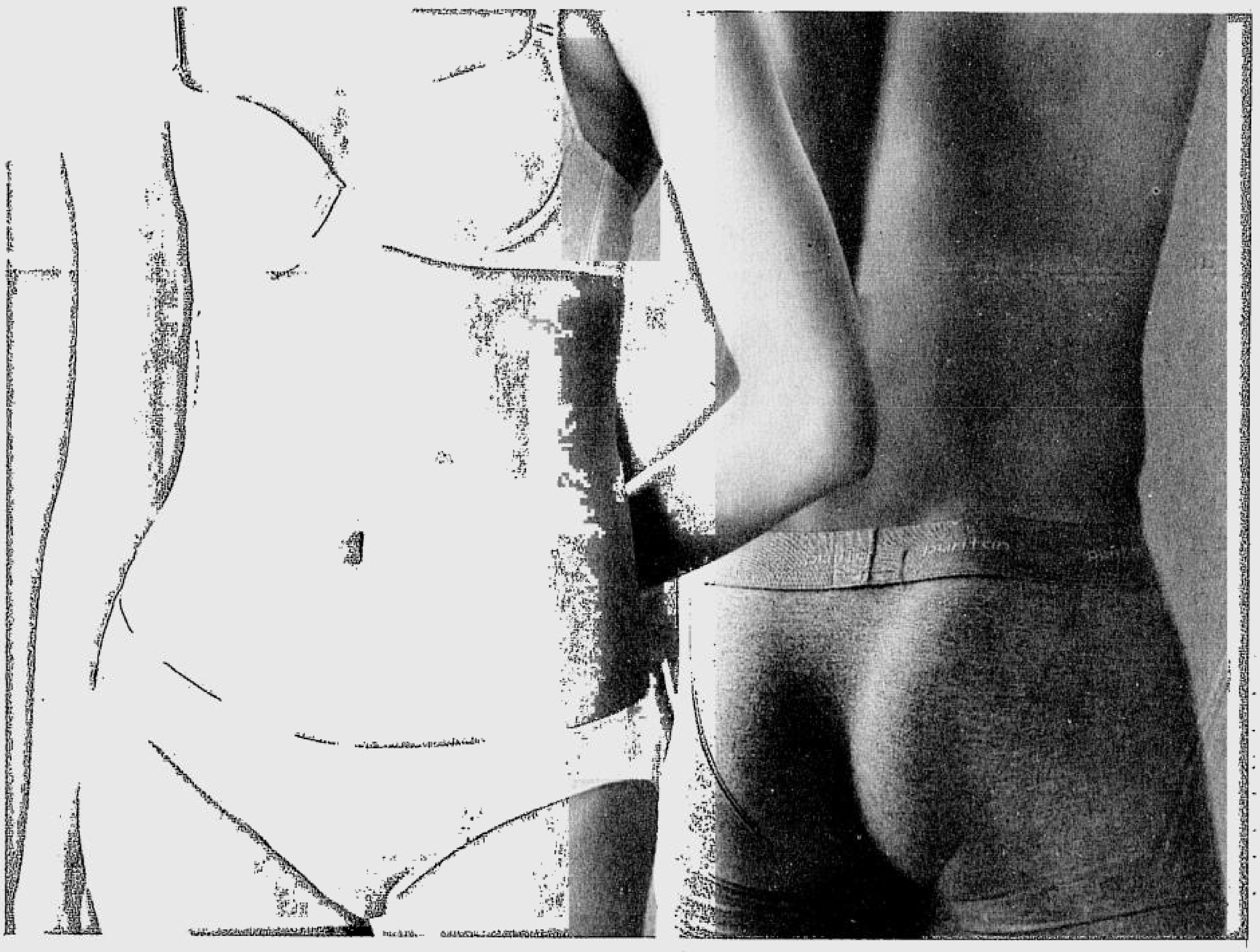
Aug. 1 to 15



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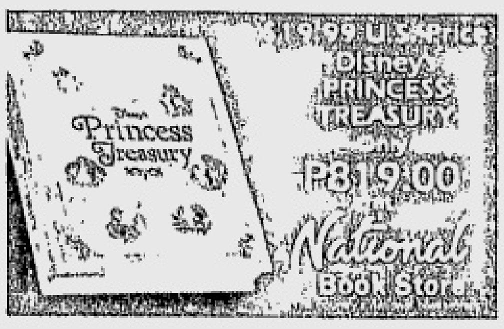

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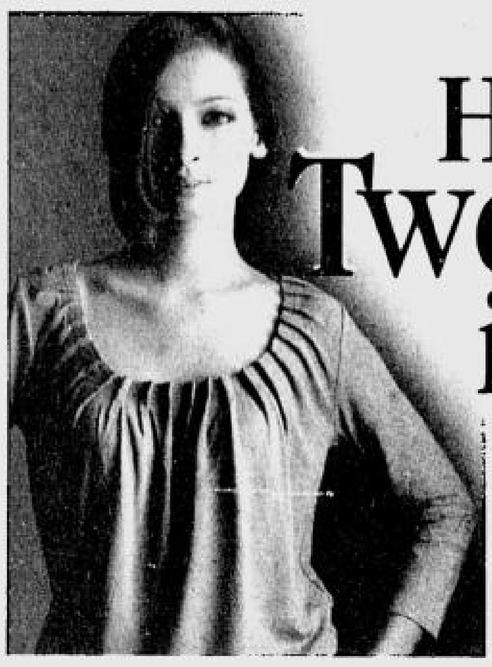
How Tweeds it is



COTTON three-fourths sleeved pleated top

SHRUNKEN blazer, polka dot knit top, low-rise pants, multi-strand leatherette belt with metal pailletes

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BUSY, busy, busy? Tweeds adopts the urban chic agenda and lets the stylish working woman go from a breakfast meeting to a night-out with friends without worrying about her clothes. The shop offers a mix of trendy and classic pieces for the career woman.

Cropped pants, miniskirts, tops with ruche details or pleated necklines, tank tops and mesh cotton shirts are some of the things fashion-savvy women can find in Tweeds, as well as shrunken blazers, cotton stretch pants and low-rise jeans. The store also carries the Pedro Garcia line of shoes from stilettos to flats, sneakers to flip-flops.

Tweeds is at Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, SM Megamall and SM Manila.

SHRUNKEN blazer, tube top, cropped pants with buckled hem and striped sides, military-inspired belt with grommets

FRONT ruched top with straps, cropped pants with strapped hem, Pedro Garcia stilettos

PHOTOS: TOM EPPERSON

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V-NECK top with empire combi and extended sleeves and black cargo pants, both from Plains & Prints

ORIENTAL denim jacket, white tube top and cropped pants and cocowood bag on Angel Dy, all from Plains & Prints

WHITE printed asymmetrical V-neck top and pants on Azenith Briones by Boyet Fajardo

The plus factor

THE FASHION needs of plus-sized women are of big import to Robinsons Department Store (RDS). In fact, RDS has a section composed of Boyet Fajardo, Maxi and Plains & Prints that caters specifically to this group.

Designers of the fashion houses agree that even for plus-sized women, fit is very important.

When deciding whether or not to wear colors and prints, Fajardo says what is important is the confidence of the wearer.

Shirley Syliangco-Enriquez of Maxi says the decision will again depend on how the garment fits. A bad fit will make even the traditional black all wrong.

Prints should be of the right scale, size and color. Prints should complement the personality of the wearer.

Plains & Prints' Roxanne Ang-Farillas says minimal print is all right but it has to be mixed with solid colored fabrics for balance. Fajardo suggests geometric prints that deceive the eye and have a slimming effect.

Semi-flared sleeves in flowing fabrics will hide big arms. Classic tailored trousers and skirts with simple, fluid designs and nice-fitting jeans are best in keeping big thighs, butts and hips less obvious.

For bulging tummies, V-neck blouses and V-shaped hems are ideal.

While plus-sized women can wear the latest styles in earrings, necklaces, bands and scarves, they should avoid chunky jewelry and try not to over-accessorize.

Long necklaces that dangle to the midsection is recommended.

For more of the best of plus-sized fashion, visit Robinsons Department Store.

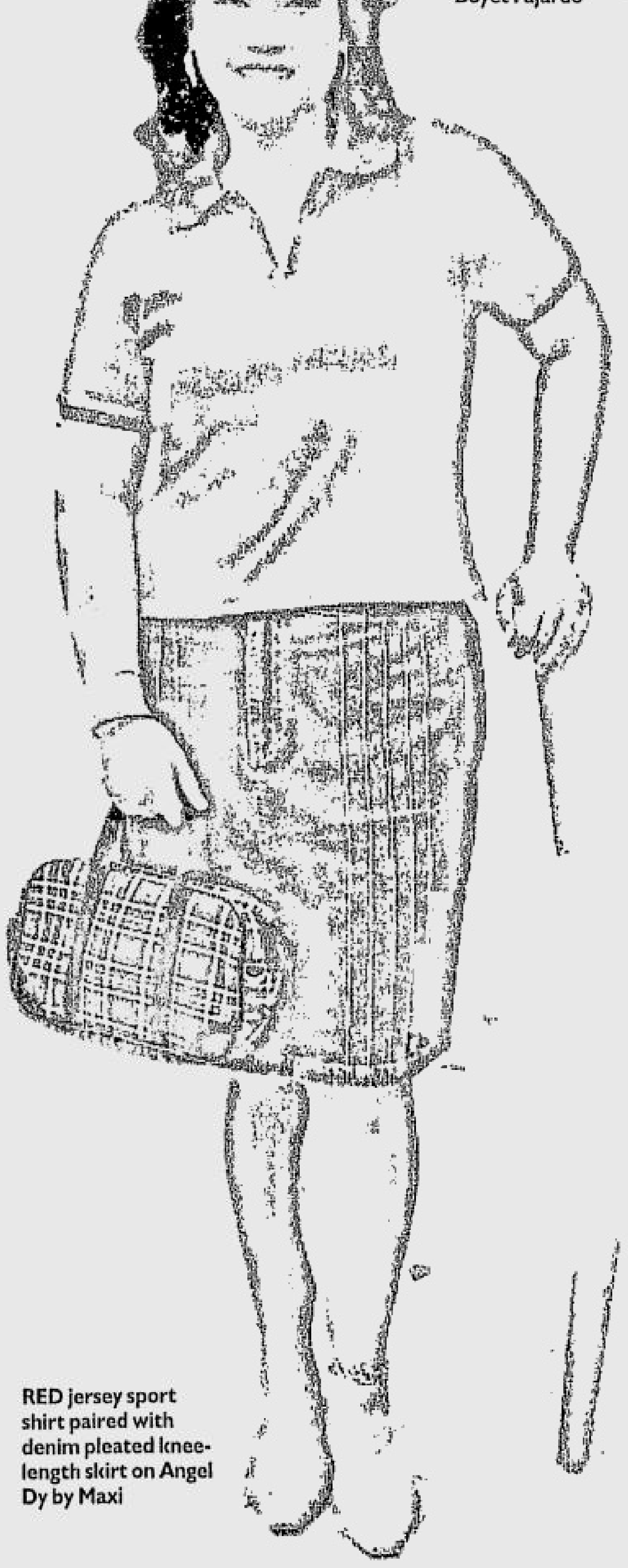
Boyet Fajardo's creations are exclusively available at all RDS branches. Maxi is available at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Metro East and Manila. Plains & Prints is at Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Manila.

Yes, there's hope for women of substance

KIMONO-inspired checkered blouse and white stretch cotton capri pants by Maxi

MAROON top and striped pants on Azenith Briones by Fajardo

FAJARDO'S geometrically cut ensemble



RED jersey sport shirt paired with denim pleated knee-length skirt on Angel Dy by Maxi

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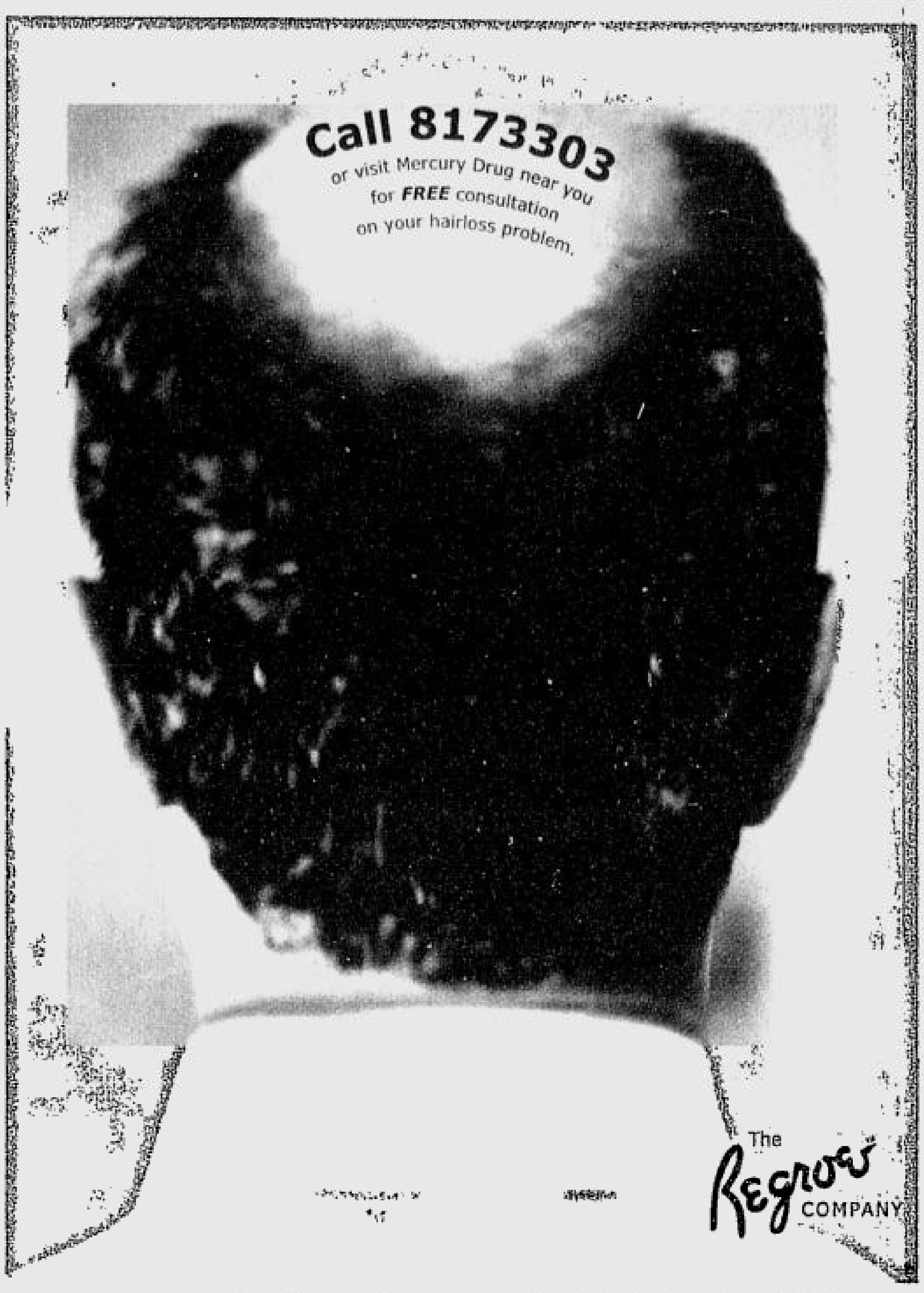

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Cornell-Diliman	Shangri-La Plaza-Mandaluyong	Harrison Plaza-Manila	Ever Gotesco-Kalookan	Mayflower Plaza-Mandaluyong
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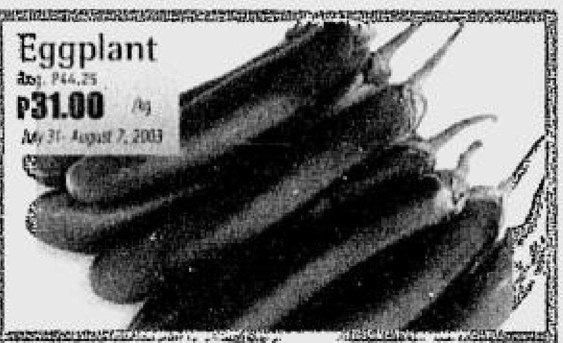
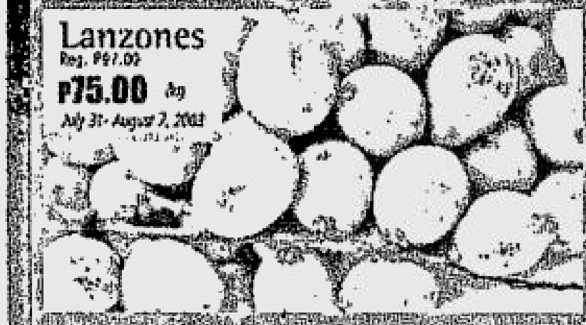


Eggplant
Reg. P44.25
P31.00 /kg
July 31- August 7, 2003



Lanzones
Reg. P87.00
P75.00 /kg
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Avocado
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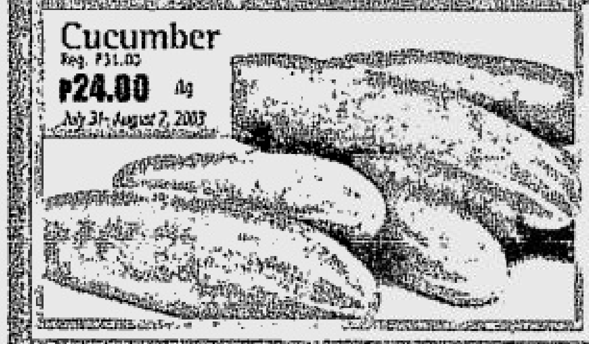

Cucumber
Reg. P31.00
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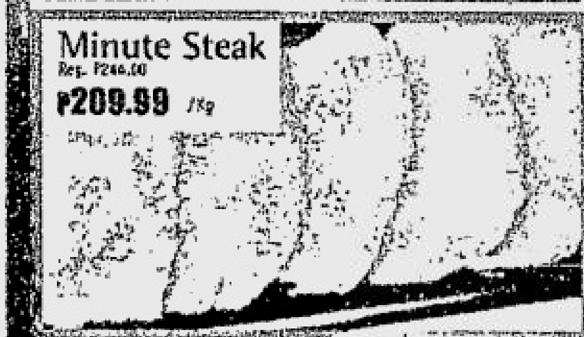

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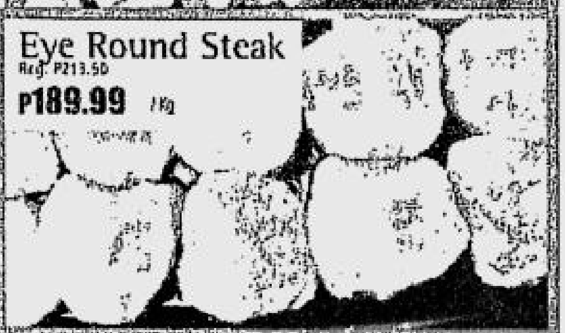

Eye Round Steak
Reg. P213.50
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Pork Rump Steak
Reg. P141.99
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Pork Pata
Sliced
Reg. P122.99
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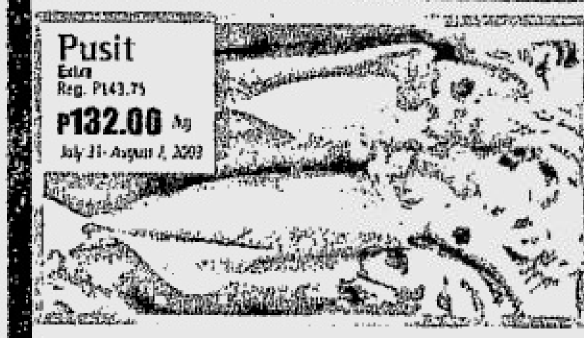
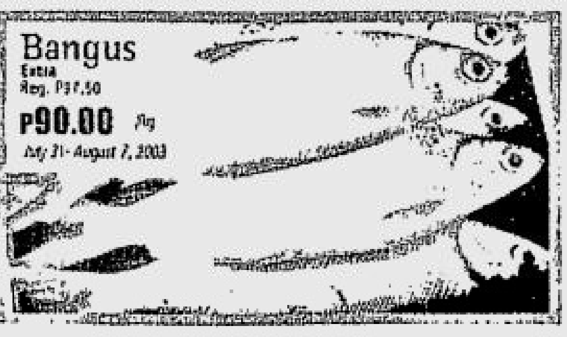


Pusit
Extra
Reg. P143.75
P132.00 /kg
July 31- August 7, 2003



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Extra
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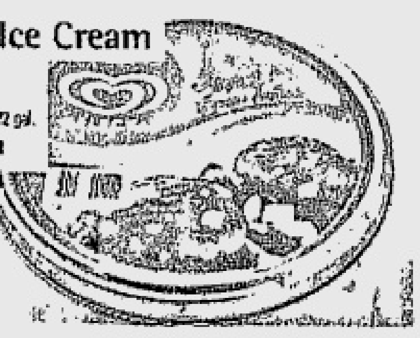
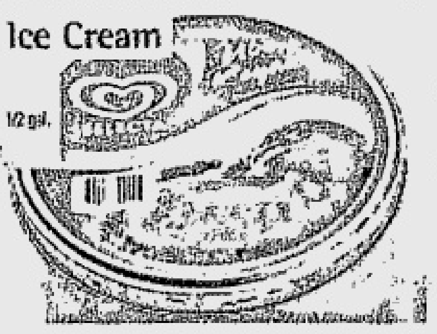


Selecta Ice Cream
Supreme
Very Rocky Road
Reg. P185
P175.00 1/2 gal.
August 1-14, 2003

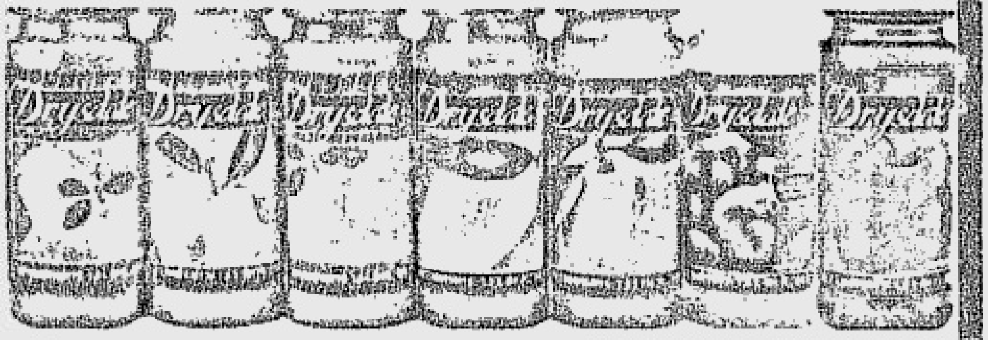


Selecta Ice Cream
Classic
Ube Royale
Reg. P155.00
P145.00 1/2 gal.
August 1-14, 2003

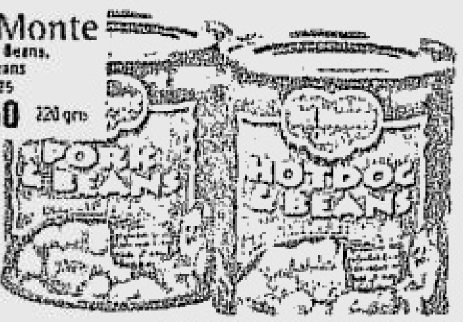
Magnolia
Cheezee
Reg. P64.00
P62.95 1 kg
August 1-14, 2003

Magnolia
Cheezee
Reg. P24.00
P23.00 200 gms
August 1-14, 2003

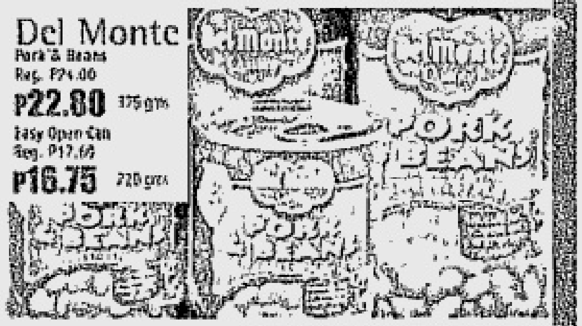
Enfagrow
Growing Up Milk
Lacto Free
Reg. P794.75
P771.00 1.8 kg
A+
Reg. P736.50
P715.00 1.8 kg



Drysdale
Fruit Juices
Mango Nectar,
100% Orange,
Mango Orange
Reg. P90.00
P85.75 1.5 liter
Mango Juice,
Orange Float
Calamansi Juice,
Apple Juice,
Reg. P87.55
P81.00 1.5 liter



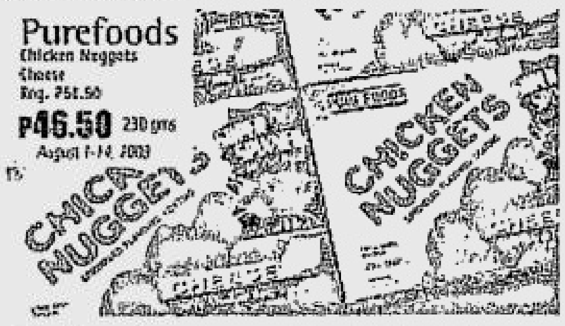
Del Monte
Hotdog & Beans,
Pork & Beans
Reg. P15.25
P14.50 220 gms



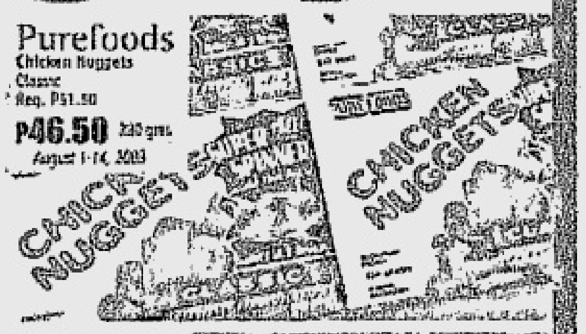
Del Monte
Pork & Beans
Reg. P24.00
P22.80 375 gms
Easy Open Can
Reg. P17.60
P16.75 220 gms

Mother's Best
Barbecue Marinade Mix
Reg. P41.75
P39.75 12 oz
Oyster Sauce
Reg. P55.50
P52.75 340 ml

Mother's Best
Hot Sauce
Reg. P10.25
P9.75 55 ml

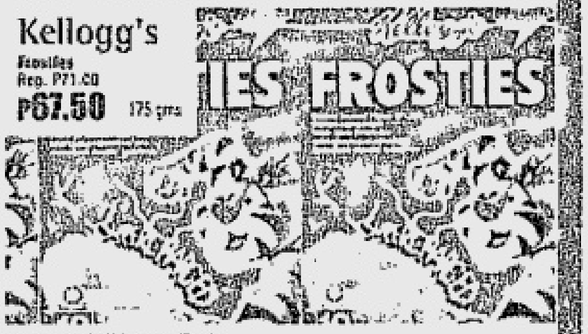


Purefoods
Chicken Nuggets
Cheese
Reg. P51.50
P46.50 230 gms
August 1-14, 2003



Purefoods
Chicken Nuggets
Classic
Reg. P51.50
P46.50 230 gms
August 1-14, 2003

Kellogg's
Corn Flakes
Reg. P90.00
P85.50 275 gms



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Reg. P71.00
P67.50 175 gms

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Tofiluk 32 gms
Safari 30 gms
Pik-One 24 gms
Reg. P6.00
P5.75 each

Saudan Derby
Nougat and Caramel 23 gms
Chocolate Nougat 21 gms
Toffee Crunch 25 gms
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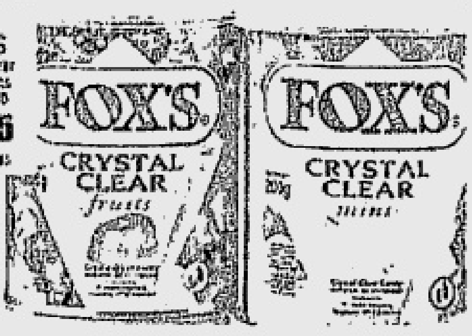
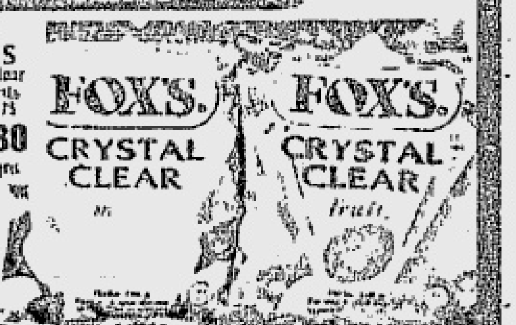
Caramel and
Almond Crunch 25 gms
Reg. P5.25
P5.00 each



Fox's
Crystal Clear
Fruits, Mints
Reg. P85.50
P81.25
200 gms



Fox's
Crystal Clear
Fruits, Mints
Reg. P29.75
P28.30
100 gms

Equal
Tablet
Reg. P177.30
P168.80
200's
Sachets
Reg. P124.50
P118.25
50's

P&P
Fruit Cocktail
Reg. P61.00
P57.95
470 ml
Peach
Reg. P51.00
P48.50
470 ml

Makati 898-9275 | Cubao 911-7530 | Shangri-La Plaza 633-4423 | Harrison Plaza 521-8330 | Rockwell 898-9270 | San Antonio, Forbes Park 817-8327 | Bon [illegible]
Ali Mall 912-6125 | Farmers Plaza 911-1691 | Alabang 807-1996 | Fairview 430-8095 | Marikina 941-0979 | Star Mall 722-2714 | Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) [illegible]
Taytay 665-2110 | Libertad 834-2788 to 90 | Katipunan 928-3118 | Mercedes-Paug 747-9272 | EDSA Taft 833-4560 | Zabarte [illegible] | Magallanes 852-8090

Beauty LifeStyle

Going back to hair basics

MAKEOVER 911

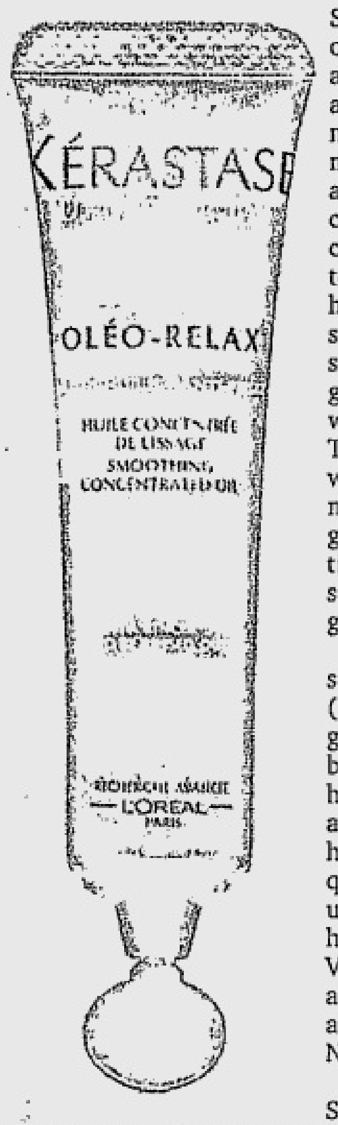
Kinny Salas

ENGROSSED with makeup, skin care and body sculpting lately, I suddenly realized one morning that my hair was severely neglected. My fault really.

My last haircut was four months ago and in a two-month span I have curled, straightened and colored my hair five times. Result: oily scalp and damaged hair that one can't comb.

I decided to go back to the basics of hair care, address other scalp and hair care problems and talk about the products meant for them.

Step 1: Tried a reputable new stylist for a new look. Had my hair styled by Stefan of Basement Salon. He cut off the damaged ends and shaped my hair to fit my face. He also fixed my color, adding conditioners to restore health and shine. The results just kept getting better with time! The first week, I felt my hair was good, but as time passed it shaped up great!



Color is surfacing (auburn-golden brown with highlights) and my fine hair has acquired volume and behaves well. Very wash-and-wear and totally NOT boring!

Step 2: Stefan pointed out that hair care doesn't stop at the salon. I should also do it at home. So I got Phytospecifique: shampoo (P580), conditioner (P740) and treatment (P895). I apply the treatment once a week and my hair thanks me for it. This is available at top salons but, since I was already there, I got mine in Basement. The treatment is specifically designed to maintain the shine and health of rebonded hair and dry, unruly and damaged strands.

Step 3: Attended Kérastase Oleo Relax launch at Emphasis Salon. I had heard so much about this product because Madonna considers this a staple for her hair. It comes in a set of three hair and bath conditioners and the very famous masque. I left a very happy person. Hair treatment includes scalp, shoulder and upper and lower back massage. The woman who attended to me was Luisa, and she was great at loosening my tense shoulders and back. I slept so well that evening and woke up with my hair so silky I got a lot of compliments.

Special shampoos for hair/scalp problems

For sensitive scalps allergic to most shampoos: VMV Skin Saver Hair and Body Shampoo and Conditioner in milk or frisky mint. Suitable for all hair types and smells heavenly. It cleans, conditions, soothes and exfoliates sensitive skin. Also try Kérastase Dermo-Calm Shampoo—my scalp's antioxidant.

Basement Salon (898-2222), Emphasis Salon (898-0818). Kerastase products and PhytoSpecifique are sold in top salons. VMV products are sold in Landmark, SM, and Robinson's Department stores.

E-mail the author at: kinnysalas@yahoo.com

For always-healthy locks, hair care shouldn't stop at the salon but should continue at home

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*Promo Period from June 12 to Sept. 12, 2003
Per DTI - NCR Permit #2476, Series of 2003
SM North EDSA (Annex) - 929-0229
La'O Centre Bldg., Pasay Rd., Makati Ave.- 819-7357
*Promo Period from July 12 to Oct. 12, 2003 Per DTI - NCR Permit #2934, Series of 2003

onstage 2nyt

Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill	Cowboy Grill
LAS PIÑAS ☎ 801.7644	MR.ROXY THINKERS/JOGRAD	AUG 08-GRAND OPENING BROWNE, ROCKED DELA TORRE & DODONG ACOL
MABINI ☎ 525.1474	MISSMO PHRYGIAN/HUDYAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	AUG.21-MOONSTAR 88
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	STREETLIFE HEADWORKZ	1-4XT EVERY TUESDAY OF AUGUST
BIÑAN ☎ (049)511.7268	POWER ON EMMANUELLE	1-4XT EVERY MONDAY OF AUGUST AUG.07-BLAKDYAK
Partyplace SAN FERNANDO,PAMPANGA ☎ (045)961.3360	SYNFONIA	AUG.15 - FRESHMEN SEPT.05-JIMMY BONDOC OCT.10-PAOLO SANTOS
TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S	TIA MARIA'S
JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	NO EXIT FIRST SIGHT	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No., 3084, Series of 2003.

JOSINE Elizalde and Johnny Velasquez

SITTING IT OUT. Bledes Flores with photographer Wig Tysman

MARISA Echauz with her husband Choy Cojuangco and Johnny Velasquez

THE BLACK GANG: Dr. Randy Francisco, Pepper Teehankee and Alex Van Hagen

CAN'T have enough of the Pamplinas: architect Conrad Onglao

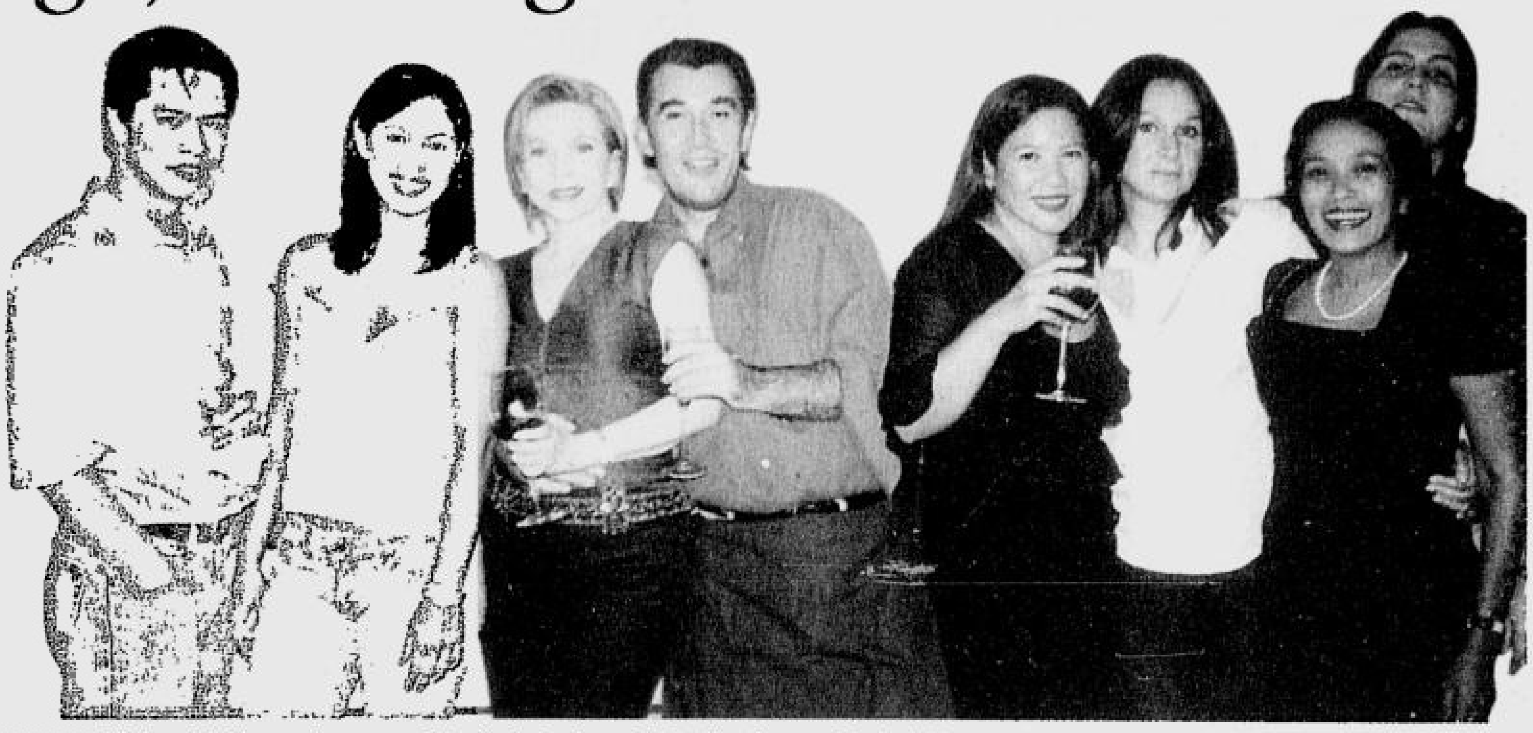
Night of the siege, evening of wine and roses

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by
Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak Max

How do you get home from a party when rebel soldiers are taking over the streets?


WHAT? All that drinking and no water? Ferdie Salvador with Oudine Santos, Maricris Vasquez Prada, birthday boy Antonio Garcia, Karen Santos, Carla Reyes Tengco, Ters Favis Olbes and Andy Vasquez Prada

EVEN during the height of the "coup" night, would you believe, the partying night pack drove using different routes since most of Ayala's main roads were blocked by tanks and soldiers? Just to get to their favorite hip boozing hole, *palanggas*.

The hot spot V was packed with the Saturday night fever crowd who watched the TV monitors showing the goings-on at the "coup" site. **Pepper Teehankee** left in a rush after a call from his father (actually, Pepper's dad always checks on him around 4:30 a.m. when Pepper is out); next was a call from his mother, "Rush home now!", which he did.

Sally Bernard left her car at V and decided to crash at the home of her friend in San Lorenzo.

The rush home

Raul Manzano breezed in and out of V just as fast! Two pals who took up a room at the InterCon, instead of driving back home, ended up crashing in their car.

Two well-known young socialites, who were driving to V for more partying, coming from a fashionable wedding in Makati, were stopped by a huge tank blocking the entrance to Pasay Road which flashed its bright headlights at their car. Well, they stepped out in their formal gowns, waved and threw flying kisses at the soldiers in the tank, who after that, allowed them to drive on.

"Maurice, promise you won't put our names out!" the girls asked me. Promise made, promise kept, *palanggas, di bala*?

Then there were these two very, very visible party fiends who came from the Forbes Center where the action took center stage that night, drove their car as far as they could on Ayala Avenue, got down and circulated with the soldiers who were in no mood for socializing, dahlings. They even tried their best to get into Oakwood under the pretext that they "wanted to visit their friends" who were staying there. Well, that didn't work either. They stayed on around Ayala, chatting with the soldiers instead till way past the break of dawn.

Dislocated

Socialite **Diana Jean Lopez** nervously dashed out of her Urdaneta apartment and had her pal **Nedy Tantoco** collect her immediately to spend the weekend at the home of Nedy at Forbes. This was around 2 a.m. of Sunday, when things were getting hot at the Ayala Center.

Sisters **Vickie** and **Bela Madrigal Vazquez** took off from their Urdaneta apartment in the early part of the coup, around 6:30 p.m. of Saturday, and went as far as they could get away from Makati. They checked in at the Vivere Hotel in Alabang.

Another resident of the same apartment, **Tonnet Martel**, checked in somewhere closer, at the elegant Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

At the InterCon Hotel at 4 p.m. of Sunday, when the first give-up-or-die deadline of 5 p.m. was fast rushing in, the entire staff, including the hotel's security personnel, and the guests were asked to evacuate immediately. The government troops then took over the entire hotel and got ready for the worst, in which Ayala Center would become the battlefield of Oakwood against InterCon. The government troops stayed on till 4 a.m. of Monday.

"Would you believe, they left the hotel clean, and nothing at all was lost? The only ones who lost millions were the **Ayalas**," a hotel personnel told *moi, palanggas*.

Meanwhile, newly wed beautiful young couple **Melissa Dragon** and **Vincent Floirendo**, who were all set to go to their honeymoon suite at the Peninsula Manila after most of their classy invitees left the wedding reception at the Floirendos' mansion in chi-chi North Forbes, ended up spending their getting-to-know-you-better night at the Floirendo home. That's one honeymoon night the couple won't forget, *palanggas*, and that's for sure.

Antonio's way

Maybe it was the half moon. Maybe it was the excellent flowing wine and vodka. Whatever it was, *palanggas*, it was the perfect recipe for a great time when renowned popular florist **Antonio Garcia** of Mabolo turned a glowing 40 and rounded up 50 hip-new guards from the business, society and art world for dinner and drinks, at the fabulous Terry's Deli on the second floor of Terry's Shop on Pasong Tamo Extension.

An 8 p.m. affair, by 8:30, the place was already jumping since the fabi ambience was a plus come-on for this happening.

Multifaceted businessman **Choy Cojuangco** breezed in with his wife, Southern belle **Marissa Echauz**, who promised to leave by 1 a.m., "'cause I have an important seminar tomorrow at 8." Well, dahlings, she didn't leave till 3:30 a.m.; that's how much fun everyone was having.

Sultry **Bledes Fores** walked in and had many of the mature-ish women dying of envy over her wow figure. Her formula? "Control your appetite; eat less, choose the food you take in and have a positive attitude." She arrived with her current boy wonder **Jucca** and **Kathy Litton**.

Whenever you heard loud laughter from a group, you could be sure witty-fun businessman **Al Tengco** was there belting out one of his funny stories while his wife **Carla Reyes** stayed by the long bar all night chatting with the parade of personalities who moved around the place, not sitting once during the night with a glass of wine in hand.

EYE-CATCHING flower arrangement by Mabolo

Top cardiologist **Randy Francisco** and his entrepreneur wife **Irene Martel** checked out the wine cellar and paintings on the wall. "This is a great place for a party," Dr. Randy F. kept saying. "It's perfect for the INQUIRER and Tatler Magazine." One who usually takes a French exit, Dr. Randy stayed until 3 a.m., convincing his wife, who had wanted to leave earlier (for a change), to stay on. "Well, if you can't fight 'em, you join them," Irene laughed, turning then to the waiter, "What the heck, get me another glass of wine, please."

Another Mr. Wit himself, **Nando Vasquez Prada** had his group in stitches as *moi* sat with them planning out my next hydrogen bomb column about who not to invite to the same party, or put in the same room together. Well, he came up with a couple of names that had his wife, blonde Southern beauty **Maricris** screaming, "No, please, Maurice, don't put them on the list!" while **Carol Garcia** and **Gina Tambunting** kept egging me to "do it." **Josine Elizalde** chose a table by the window and stayed there with **Annie Sorthou**, since artist **BenCab** was in Baguio.

Antonio outdid himself with the gorgeous flower arrangements all over the place and the to-die-for dinner he prepared before our very eyes at the superbly designed open kitchen at one side of the Deli.

The wine drinkers couldn't say enough about the superb wine being served, to which Al Tengco said, "Look at all the top wine labels on the floor-to-ceiling racks on the other side of the Deli. I'll go there and pick out the best!" Hopefully, Antonio didn't freak out when he sobered up the next day.

The menu was wow! Antonio prepared the list starting with Pamplinas (callos without the ox tripe) and the Kalitiran smothered with mushroom, which was so tender you could cut it with a fork and it melted in your mouth.

There was the Jamon Serrano and the chisturra sausage with grated manchego cheese. Also, a huge baked turkey from **Carla Tengco** with what everyone agreed was the best stuffing. Carla, natch, ain't giving out her secret recipe on that. And another Carla specialty was the excellent fish loaf spread with her homemade mayonnaise.

Good-looking nephew of Antonio G., **Luis Terry**, had the married women and singles alike pulsating over him.

Vivacious **Bing Bing Gonzalez** breezed in late-ish and floored the invitees with her sexy solo dancing during the later part of the evening. While brilliant photographers and pals **Alex Van Hagen** and **Wig Tysman**, who both make beautiful women look more beautiful and the not-so-beautiful look sort of beautiful, took turns aiming their cameras on the fun pack.

Everyone looked so pretty. Maybe it was because everyone there was a friend. No jealous hot names were invited, dahlings.

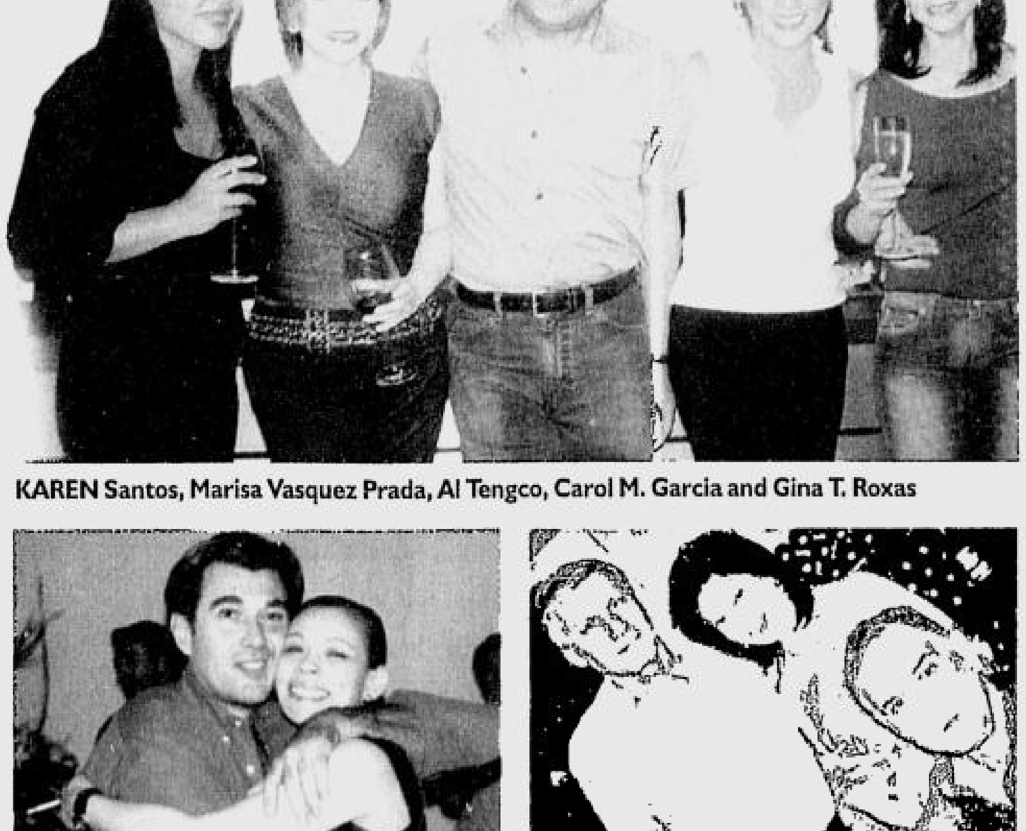
One guest said it all about this bash. "I know I had a fantastic time at the party. I was sick for three days after." Amen. Catch you around, *palanggas*.

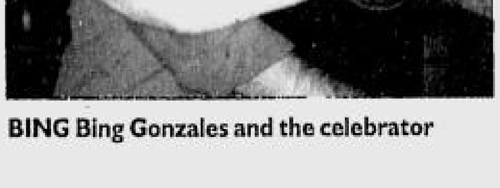
BEAUTIFUL Amanda Tengco with Antonio G. and handsome Ivan Carapiet

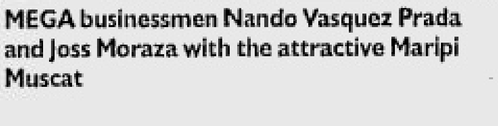
WINE flowed, so did the fun: Susan Reyes and Irene Martel Francisco

ITO Feliciano, Grace Ricafort, Luis Terry and his mom Mariso Terry

FUN time for Lorrie Zorrila Garcia, with Antonio G., Maripi Muscat, Iñaki Garcia and Roslu Von Kauffmann


KAREN Santos, Marisa Vasquez Prada, Al Tengco, Carol M. Garcia and Gina T. Roxas


BING Bing Gonzales and the celebrator


MEGA businessmen Nando Vasquez Prada and Joss Moraza with the attractive Maripi Muscat

Workshop on how to become competent people helpers

THE ASIAN Institute of Life Transformation will hold a workshop series on Learning How to Become Competent People Helpers: An Intensive Training Workshop on Basic Counseling on Aug. 16, 23, 30 and Sept. 6 at Bahay Kalinaw at UP Diliman, QC campus. Call 4156529.

GOINGS ON

WORKSHOP. Passing Through Grief, a three-day seminar-workshop designed to help those who have lost their loved ones cope with grief, will be held Aug. 15-17 at Alberione Oasis in Antipolo City.

The seminar, originally scheduled earlier this month, had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. Call 6471186 or 0917-4172774.

EXHIBIT. The Third International Exhibits in Modern and Related Equipment, Products, Services and Technology back to back with E-Business Expo and Job Fair Philippines starting today until Aug. 3 at the Philippine Trade Training Center.

SEMINAR. A seminar on magazine writing and editing is slated for two Sunday afternoons on Aug. 17 and 24, 3-6 p.m. Interested participants may visit Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center, 6/F, MB Aguirre Bldg., Elizalde St. cor. President's Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque. Call 8426665.

ANNIVERSARY SALE. Sundance Direct Sales marks its 4th anniversary with a Bodega Sale in Farmers Market Cubao until Aug. 9. It will also hold AnniverSAYA cum BingoNanza on Aug. 10, 1 p.m. Call 9130072/9114751.

SALE. PhotoPlus launches its Pay Day Madness Sale until Aug. 3. Other promos include Buy One Take One for imported frames and photo albums and a special price for a Lexmark printer. Call 3711388.

PROFICIENCY TEST. The Japanese Language Proficiency Test will be held on Dec. 7, 9 a.m., at De La Salle University, Taft Ave., Manila; Philippine Nikkei-jin Kai, Inc., Mamay Road, Lanang, Davao City; and University of San Carlos , P. del Rosario St., Cebu City. Call 8116155/58.

EXHIBIT. The Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID) Advanced Class 2003 will hold an exhibit dubbed "Isla" (Interior Spaces for Local Application), featuring the works of PSID's graduating batch, on Oct.3-31, at PBCom Towers, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

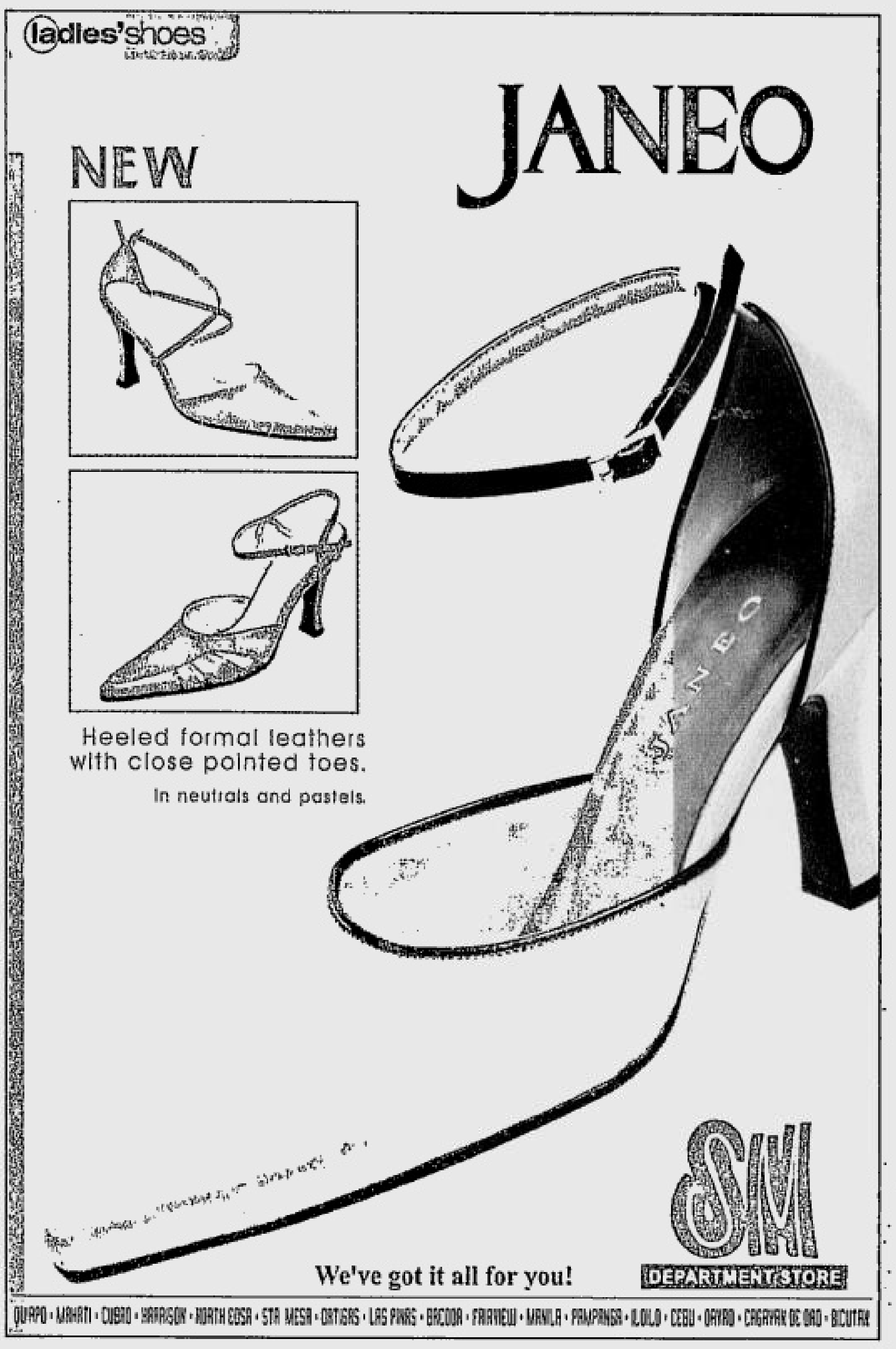
EXHIBIT. Philtrade Exhibits will hold Kasalan sa Pilipinas on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2004 at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Call 820-7879 and 820-1570.

SALE. Dita Sandico-Ong will hold a Full Moon Sale on Aug. 8-12. All items will be 50-75 percent off. This will be held at 35 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan. Call 7265102/7260.

SEMINAR. A two-day seminar dubbed "You Can Have It All-Working with Universal Principles and Mutual Support" is set on Aug. 8 and 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Patio Guernica, 1856 J. Bocobo St. cor. Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila. Call 5214415/4417 or (0920) 2905875 and (0919) 2905875.

REVIEW CLASSES. The Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS) will hold review classes for librarians' board examination on Aug. 3-Oct. 12, every Sunday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at University of Sto. Tomas, España, Manila. Call 7313101 local 8343 or 5249740.

GREENWICH was recently named the Most Outstanding Pizza Parlor in the 14th Annual National Consumers Awards. Given by the Consumers Union of the Philippines, the award signifies Greenwich's commitment to consumer service and product excellence.



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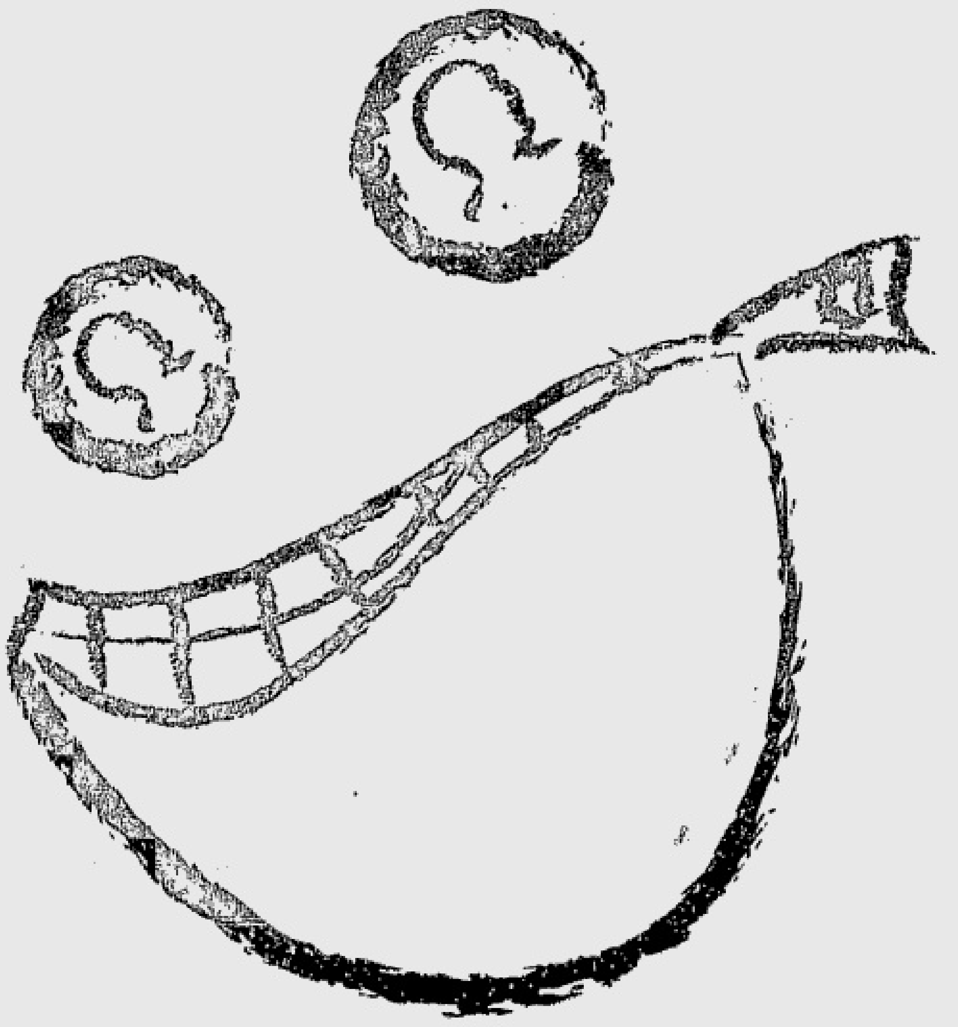
Masaya ang Tawaran
sa Greenhills Shopping Center's Mid-Year Bangketa Fair.

Smile! Dahil from July 4 – August 3, 2003, tiyak na sasaya ang iyong pitaka dito sa GSC. With over 1,000 stalls offering the best bargains, 'di mo maiiwasang malibang. Extended na rin ang shopping hours 'til 10 P.M. on Fridays and Saturdays para sa walang-sawang tawaran!

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MAKEOVER KIOSKS IN TOP MALLS
Maybelline Philippines has created a new avenue for distributing its world-renowned cosmetics products via mini kiosks strategically positioned in Manila's top malls such as SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa and SM Southmall. These kiosks serve as interactive makeup centers where consumers are encouraged to do makeovers and sample Maybelline's top-selling items such as Water Shine Diamonds, Lash Discovery, Fruity Jelly and Lip Smooth. Each kiosk contains a trendy tester bar called a "Playstation" where consumers can experiment and have fun with makeup, a wall product display and a makeover dresser.

Oh that winning smile

THIS month, photograph your answers to the question "Why Smile?" and get a chance to win cash and other prizes.

Gift Gate, together with Fujifilm, is calling on everyone—photographers and aspiring photographers—to submit their interpretation of the answer to the question. They can share the power of a smile with their one-of-a-kind photo.

Photographs must be taken using Fujicolor, Fujichrome, YKL Film or any digital camera. Entries must be an 8R photo printed on Fujicolor Crystal Archive Paper. The photo can have any subject as long as it includes a Gift Gate element.

Entry forms are available at all Fujifilm and Gift Gate stores.

Top prize is P150,000 cash and a Fujifilm Fine Pix S602 ZOOM digital camera. A million pesos' worth of cash prizes and Fuji cameras will be given away, plus Gift Gate special awards and prizes for the early entries.

Deadline for submission of entries at all Gift Gate stores is Aug. 31. Entries will be exhibited on Sept. 20-21, with the 50 finalists displayed in large formats. Final judging will be on Sept. 21 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.

EVERYTHING ON 0% INTEREST at SM-Citibank Appliance Installment Fiesta

Calling all Citibank Cardholders! Here's a big chance to bring home your dream appliances from the grand SM-Citibank Appliance Installment Fiesta at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall. For the first time ever, Citibank credit card's PayLite Installment Plan gives an offer you simply cannot resist - **0 % INTEREST ON ALL APPLIANCE PURCHASES!** This remarkable offer is available for **CITIBANK CARDHOLDERS ONLY!**

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To avail of this value offer, Citibank cardholders only need to purchase a minimum amount of P3,000 and charge the same to their Citibank credit cards. Installment terms are available at 3, 6, and 12-month plans.

As if this weren't enough, you can still charge your PayLite purchases to the Citibank 0% PayLite Win What You Buy promotion. Ongoing until November 15, 2003, this promotion offers Citibank cardholders the chance to win instant prizes plus the chance to win the item that they bought.

Simply bring the charge slips for purchases worth P3,000 or more at redemption booths located at the Shangri-La Mall, Ayala Center Glorietta and Cebu, Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Place Ermita to get PayLite scratch cards. Each scratch card has four covered silver panels which, when scratched, will reveal the PayLite logo. If all four panels show the PayLite logo, the cardholder instantly wins his or her purchase! Hundreds of consolation prizes will also be given away.

PayLite is a unique privilege feature available to all cardholders of Citibank Silver Visa and MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa and MasterCard, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa and Citibank Clear Card.

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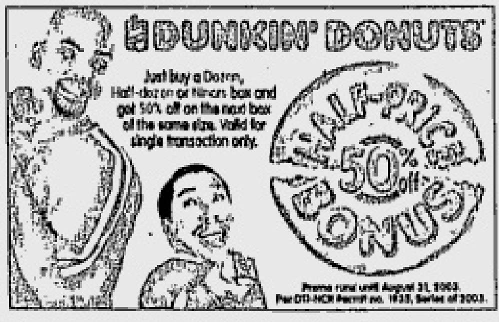
LIFESTYLE Home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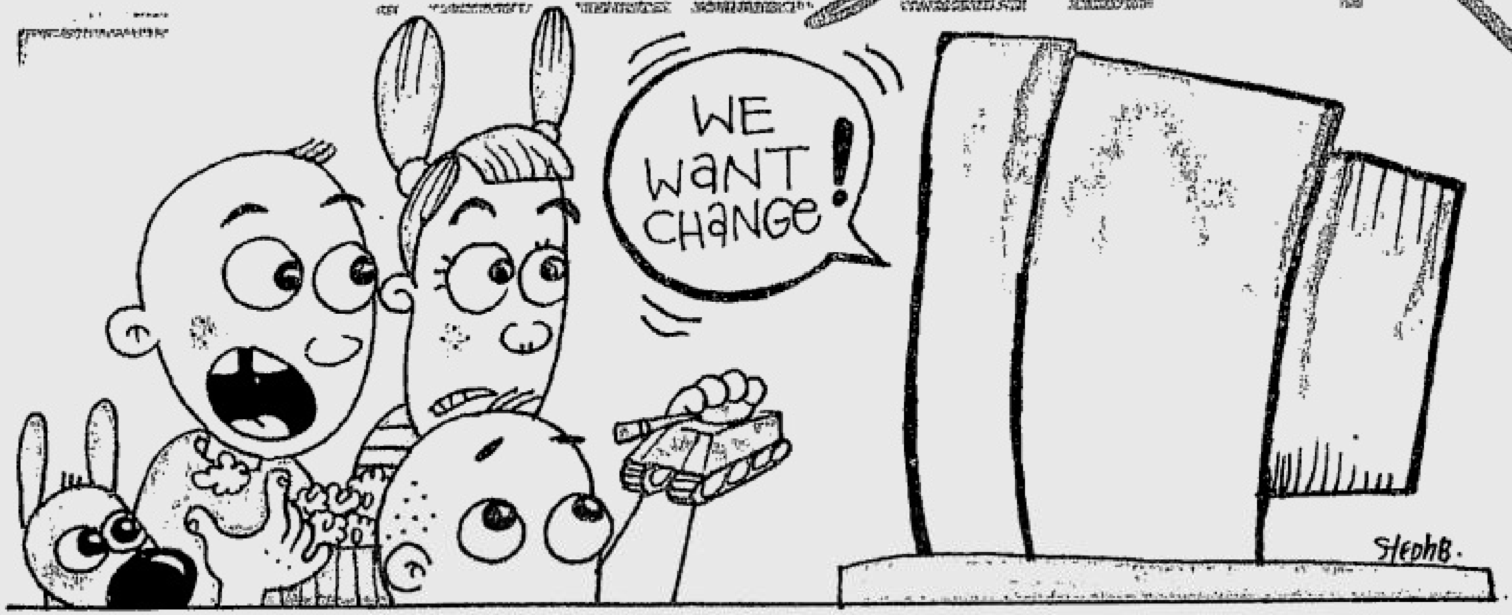

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Why are the young writing off their time even before it can begin?

'Not in this lifetime'

WHAT struck me last Sunday were the words of Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, as he and his men were being hauled off from Oakwood, that changes they went out on a limb for wouldn't happen in his "lifetime" or in his generation.

He's only in his early 30s, and so are the others with him. His voice waned not so much in defeat, as in despair. His generation is writing off a lifetime even before it can truly begin. Lined up stoically, if not defiantly, before the cameras in that afternoon's press con, these men in uniform looked not much older than the kids who went clubbing night after night. It's their youth that disturbs you. What kind of country is ours that its young give up on it even before they can fully mature?

Obviously, that's what the battlefront has done to them. The young men brought their brilliance, idealism and drive into a military that, they claimed, sold its own bullets and guns to the enemy. What they said was nothing new (though never exposed conclusively by a muck-raking media, ironically) yet it was still sickening. A stint in the corporate jungle burns you out; a stint in the military, as it turned out, would make you want to burn everything in sight.

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

As the mutiny unfolded over the weekend, you went into a been-there-done-that mode. After a dozen coups and coup attempts, we should be used to them by now, or so we thought. We went to the movies as usual Saturday evening, hung out at the country club Sunday or at the mall which, of course, had a noticeably thinner crowd. Lifestyle, you hoped, would not be seriously disrupted, ex-

'NOT/ H2

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‘Not in this lifetime’

From page H1

cept for voluntary couch-potato-ing because you wanted to stay glued to the news.

But just when you thought you’d gotten used to coups, which didn’t physically intrude into your home anyway, came this young soldier’s words of resignation. Of course, they could have been put up to it, manipulated (albeit ineptly) to serve a political agenda, or they could have indulged in sheer adventurism. Whatever the investigations yield, if they do yield something, the tragedy becomes more and more glaring—Philippine institutions seem to be headed toward self-destruction, from the military to the judiciary.

It’s not only the coups; other countries have their fair share of them and bounce back each time. It’s how the institutions are losing their sense of nation; unabated corruption is only a symptom of this.

And it doesn’t help that from day one, the President let her political plans muddle the view.

In these rotten institutions, not only is there no room for idealism or vision, their poisoned air kills time-honored values.

Last Tuesday, we gathered around the TV set in the office, as in many offices perhaps, to see and hear Sen. Greg Honasan’s privilege speech. The only difference, in our case, was that his only sister and youngest sibling, Alya, was beside us. Alya was her typical comic self, or rather close to being her typical comic self. For while in one instance she was hamming it up, talking about how Greg used to clean up her “poo” when she was a baby, he being her “yaya,” she was also discussing the turn of events, saying that if her brother really knew something was in the works last weekend, why did he let his kids, not to mention her, go on “gimik” Saturday until the wee hours? In all the past coups where he figured, Alya noted, they’d be stashed away days ahead. This time, Alya went on, Greg himself was awakened in the morning at home with the news.

So, by her own reckoning, the latest accusation by Joey Lina against her brother simply didn’t wash. (Of course, in Alya’s eyes that afternoon, it didn’t help that Joey was a secondary sponsor in my wedding eons ago, long before he went into politics and got married himself.)

Our huddle could only listen to Alya as if this was the first time we were going through it with her. It was not. Alya has been a colleague/friend for more than a decade now, and our staff, together through newspapers and magazines, has always been a close-knit family. It’s a bond that has survived many storms, and where politics doesn’t even figure. We’d seen how she fared through so many coups, so this was nothing new.

To read each other’s mood for the day, Carlo uses weather-talk: “sunny with scattered rainshowers.” Now this is “scattered rainshowers” time where Alya’s concerned.

As the Honasan speech went on, I overheard a young staffer behind me say, “Time to head for the Australian embassy,” meaning time to migrate.

To me, this was what was sad about the past days and those before them: event after event, the young are shown the door out of the country. They’re finding less and less reason to stay. They head for the nearest exit.

Goulbourn in Alabang

On to more normal times. Jeannie Goulbourn, we’re glad, is back in the thick of things. She’s opening another Silk Cocoon store, this time in Alabang, at Bellevue Hotel. Some lifestyle is shaping up in the Filinvest south, if you haven’t noticed. Hotels, such as Bellevue, are drawing in the business and lifestyle sets. The Insular Life Theater is the new home of the Repertory in the south. The Palms Country Club is a hive not only on weekends but also on weekdays. Its Café Asiana draws a clientele from breakfast to dinner, and especially on weekends with its buffet that’s fast becoming known to the residents in the south. Its badminton courts are always full. Its spa is something you should try. The Palms is a success story, no doubt.

In Makati, Elbert Cuenca of R12 can breathe easy now, not because there’s really no one smoking in their Greenbelt restaurant, but because he’s had an amiable talk with the Makati mayor who, two weekends ago, ordered R12 closed for violating the anti-smoking ban. Now Elbert wants everyone to know is that R12 back in the culinary stream.

C .dget puts romance in 21st century

MORE and more people seem to be turning to their Palm handhelds to make dates, arrange other romantic activities and even plan honeymoons.

In Santa Cruz, California, a groom who was usually late for anything was reminded of his wedding day when an alarm went off on his Palm handheld. His bride-to-be had set a "get married" alarm.

In New Jersey, a couple used the Palm m515 handheld to plan their wedding and honeymoon late last year.

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Abused child still hurting

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I hope you can give me some information and advice I badly need.

I was molested as a child. I fear that nobody will like me because of this. I graduated from college last year, but even if I really want to apply for a job, I have not done so yet. I am not confident enough because of the molestation in my past, and now I have this rare skin disease. I am afraid I won't be hired because of this problem.

I always try to be positive while trying to find a job but somehow I always turn back. Medical exams scare me, and I would like to know the standard medical exams required by most firms of their [prospective] employees, and what bases will employers [use to] turn the applicant down. Thank you.

JOELLE

It is time to look forward and forget about the molestation. Since there was no formal complaint made—you did not inform your elders of the offense, which might have been committed by a close friend or relative—try to forget it and live each day to the fullest now. You are bright, or you would not be a college graduate by now.

As for your rare skin disease, you can consult a dermatologist. Have it attended to right away, before it worsens. Every problem has a solution.

You ask about medical exams required when applying for a job. I'm sure you will pass all of them, unless your skin disease is contagious or you have rashes that are visible.

Forget about the molestation in the past. You will not be tested for virginity. What are usually required are lung X-rays, stool and urine exams, blood and other minor tests. Of course, if you are pregnant, you will not be hired, because new employees cannot yet go on maternity leave. Good luck.

S.O.S. dear readers

I have a younger brother, a special child, who is now 20 years old. Up to now he cannot walk, talk, eat by himself. His mind is pretty much like that of a child less than a year old.

Though our family is in the middle-income bracket, we still find it hard to provide for the needs of my brother.

Can you please tell me where we can [seek assistance] for children with special needs? Perhaps [there's] a government agency where we can ask for financial assistance—or benefits—such as those given in the United States to families or individuals in the same situation?

ED

I'm sorry, *hijo*, I do not have the answer, but I hope some readers will give you the information you need. Since you e-mailed your letter, it shows that you have facilities within reach that many others do not have. Kind readers can e-mail (Edwin Soriano) at edwin@qsef.net.

On breast cancer cure again

I read your column on Nov. 22, 2002. Please give me the name and address of Babes' mother-in-law who knows how to cure breast cancer. I'd like to visit this lady in Marikina. My daughter-in-law is terribly in need of a cure for breast cancer.

MS LOLITA PAHANG

I mentioned the lady's name in a recent column accompanied with a photo of the leaves she uses and a letter from Babes, who accompanied a family to Samar. Since you live in Talisay City, Cebu, you can easily go to Samar. The name and address of the healer: Hilaria Carillo, Dr. F. Duran Street, Brgy. 6, Balinghaga, Eastern Samar. Babes Pascua, who wrote to me about her, lives in Marikina. You do not have to go see her anymore now that you have the address in Samar.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI office

St. Paul-Pasig sets Batch '84 reunion

ST. PAUL College of Pasig is holding a reunion of Batch 1984 on Feb. 21, 2004.

The homecoming, titled "20@04," marks 20 years of friendship and memories and aims to reunite all batchmates in an intimate evening of dinner, music and bonding at the St. Paul's school grounds, according to Maya O. Calica of the steering committee.

Call 531-5943. Or text your name and contact info to 0917-5301435 (Nana Garcia-Guzman).

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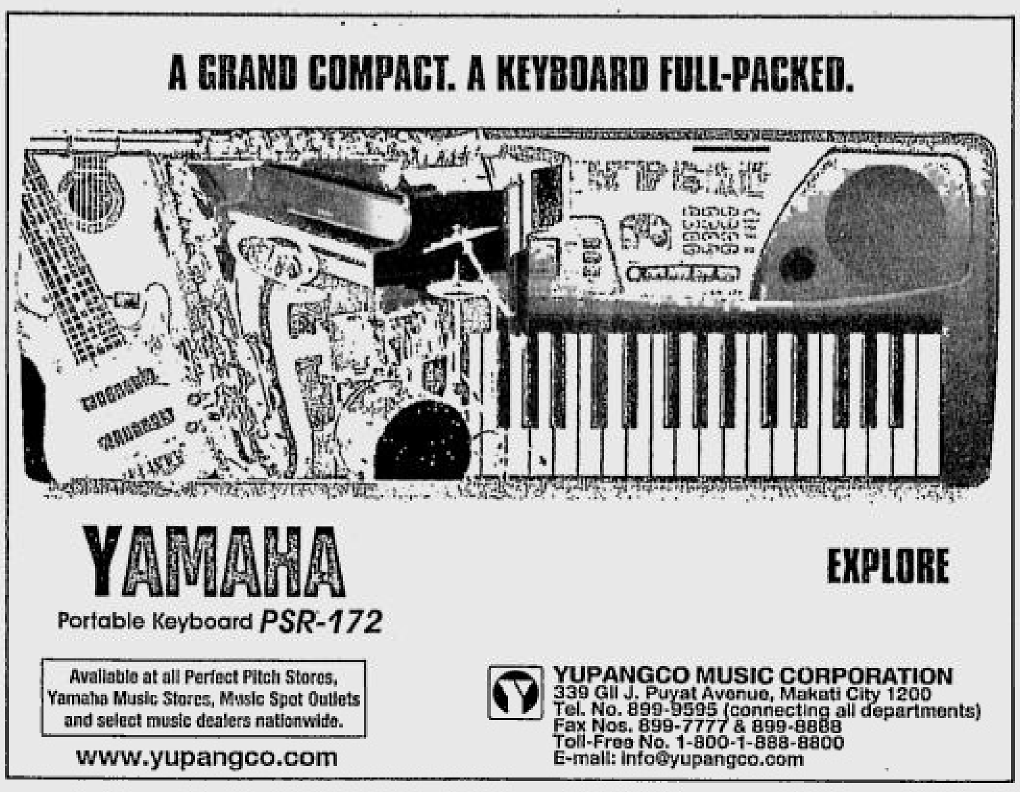
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WHO airs views on GM foods

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) of the United Nations is among those that endorse food derived from genetically modified organisms (GMO) or genetically engineered (GE) crops.

The comparatively new technology, also popularly referred to as agricultural biotechnology, has stirred up controversy between the pro- and anti-GMOs. The technology and terminology involved can be mind-boggling to a non-biologist, non-agriculturist, non-scientist, even non-environmentalist.

Although pro-GMO scientists say the technology has been around for centuries, the antis say the old ways have been in use since the beginning of time and they work with and don't attempt to be better than Nature. Perhaps the crux of the problem lies there—the technology is comparatively new and it is being foisted on people much too soon.

The UN organization believes that the new technology will help in the attainment of global food security

WHO (whose report seems to jibe with that of the Food and Agriculture Organization or FAO, also of the UN) believes, like other GMO supporters, that the technology paves the way for attaining global food security. Populations, GMO supporters say, are increasing and threatening to explode in the near future. More people would need fast-growing, high-yielding, possibly lesser-priced crops to feed them. This is why pro-GMO scientists are fast-tracking the adoption of the technology.

Frank and open

On reading the WHO report, "20 Questions on Genetically Modified Foods," however, one notes that WHO is not exactly viewing things with blinders. It is quite frank in its explanations and assessments.

It recognizes that the initial objective for developing plants based on GMOs is to provide better protection for crops through the introduction of varieties resistant to plant diseases caused by insects or viruses or by increasing tolerance to herbicides. The organization also admits there are risks in this.

In determining the potential risks of GMOs to human health, WHO says it considers three main issues: one, tendencies to provoke allergic reactions; two, gene transfer; and three, outcrossing. While WHO says no allergic effects have been found in GM foods now in the market, gene transfer from GM foods to cells of the body or bacteria in the gastro-intestinal tract *could cause concern* (Itals ours) if the transferred genetic material adversely affects human health.

"This would be particularly relevant if antibiotic resistant genes, used in creating GMOs, were to be transferred..." The probability of a transfer is low, but just the same, a WHO/FAO panel of experts would rather that a technology *without* antibiotic resistant genes is used.

'Real' risk

Outcrossing—the movement of genes from GM plants into conventional crops or related species in the wild, as well as the mixing of crops derived from conventional seeds with those grown using GM planting materials—"may have an indirect effect on food safety and food security." WHO termed this risk as "real," giving as example an occurrence in the United States where traces of a maize type intended only for animal feed appeared in maize products for human consumption. This is why WHO recommends continuous monitoring and safety surveillance of GM food products.

GMOs & the environment. WHO's current investigations focus on four areas: the potentially dangerous effect of GMOs in beneficial insects, the potential generation of new plants with disease-producing organisms (pathogens), the potential negative effects for plant biodiversity and wildlife, a decreased use of the important practice of crop rotation in certain situations, and the transfer of herbicide-resistance genes to other plants.

Safety of GM foods. The safety of individual GM foods should be assessed on a case-to-case basis, for "it is not possible to make general statements on the safety of all GM foods." Those now available in the international market have passed risk assessments and are not likely to present risks for human health. Just the same, WHO advises continued use of the assessments and market monitoring to further evaluate GM food safety.

Acceptance of GM foods. Many countries and agencies outside of the US (and in the US itself) still resist the use of GM foods. Some places have even called for a moratorium on the release of such foods in the market. WHO cites the case in southern Africa where, despite a critical lack of food, some governments in the region refuse humanitarian help, expressing environmental and food safety fears.

The WHO report mentioned here is only part of many other explanations about GMO. As a matter of fact, it is only one of several reports from other GMO supporters. There are 22 other organizations from the US as well as from other countries, and over 3,300 scientists, including Nobel laureates, who have signed a Declaration of Support. We chose to quote WHO because, to our mind, it is the lead international organization on issues such as the health and safety effects of GMO foods.

On the other side of the GMO controversy are environmentalists, concerned consumers and farmers, and a small group of scientists who are not members of big organizations but feel they must be heard on this crucial issue. They call themselves The Independent Science Panel (ISP). More on them next time.

Author may be contacted at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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- 0.3 m x 0.3 m (12 in x 12 in)
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P11 /pc
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SELLERY TANK FITTINGS
- Toilet flush repair/replacement system
P280
Reg. P349.75
MIGHTY BOND
- 3 grams
- Single Pack
- Holds up to 2 tons
P36
Reg. P39.75
GE ECONOMIZER
- 9 w & 11 w
- Daylight energy saving bulb
- Safety fuse for extra protection
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Reg. P159.75
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LifeStyle Home

Ugly FRECKLES?
Call Facial Care Centre NOW!
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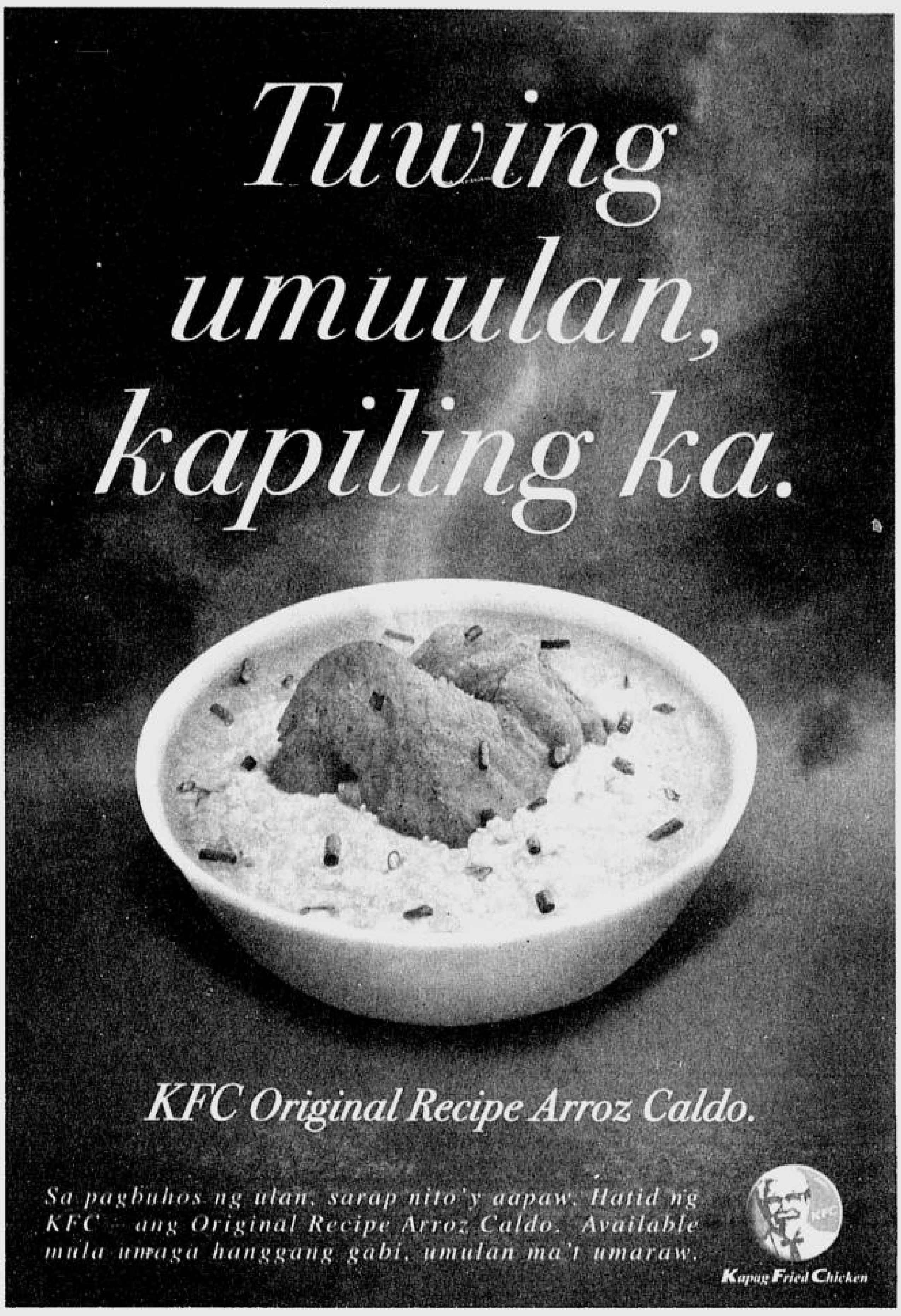
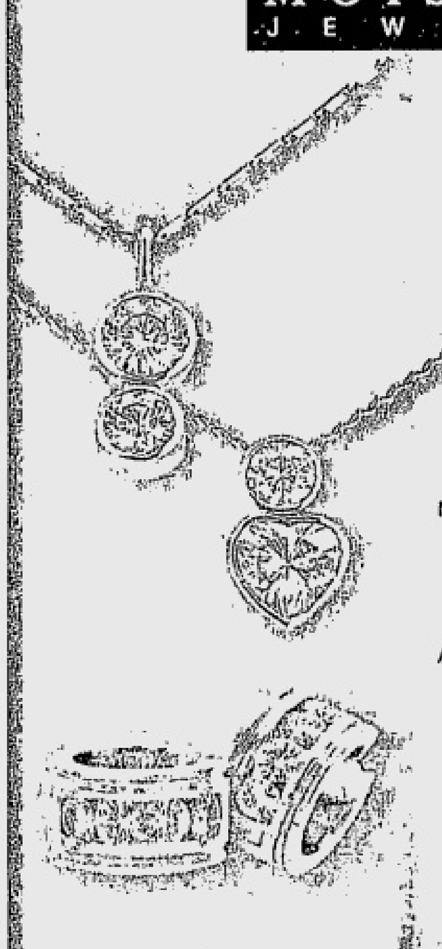
GUEST chefs hold free cooking classes at Living Well's open kitchen facility.

Kitchen entertainers, bedroom health boosters

Story on page 13


Tuwing umuulan, kapiling ka.
KFC Original Recipe Arroz Caldo.
Kapag Fried Chicken

Sa pagbuhos ng ulan, sarap nito'y aapaw. Hatid ng KFC – ang Original Recipe Arroz Caldo. Available mula umaga hanggang gabi, umulan ma't umaraw.



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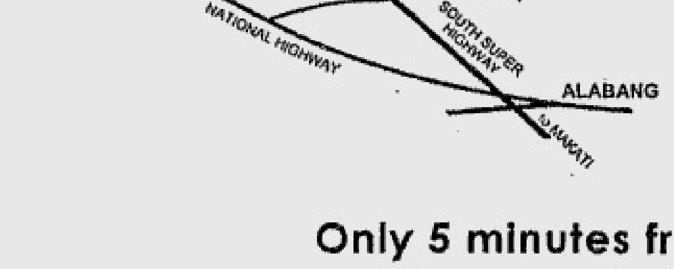
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PARRA ROAD
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San Pedro Tollway
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ALABANG
to MAKATI

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LA MAREA

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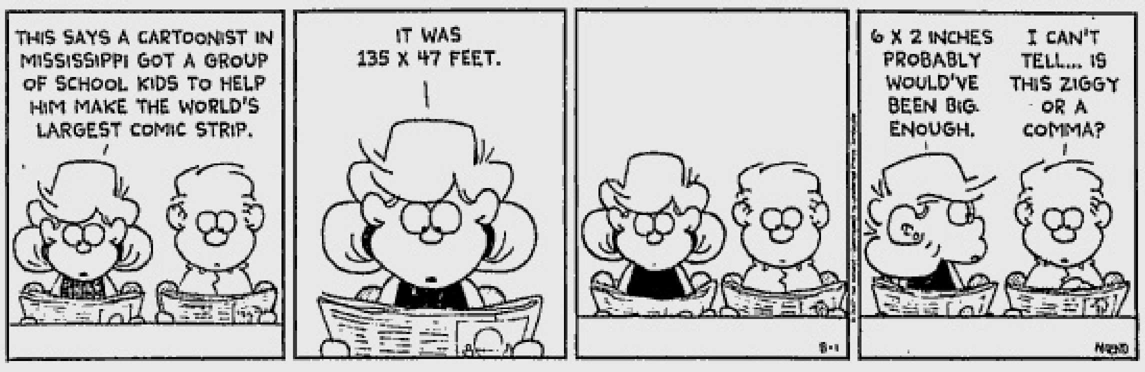
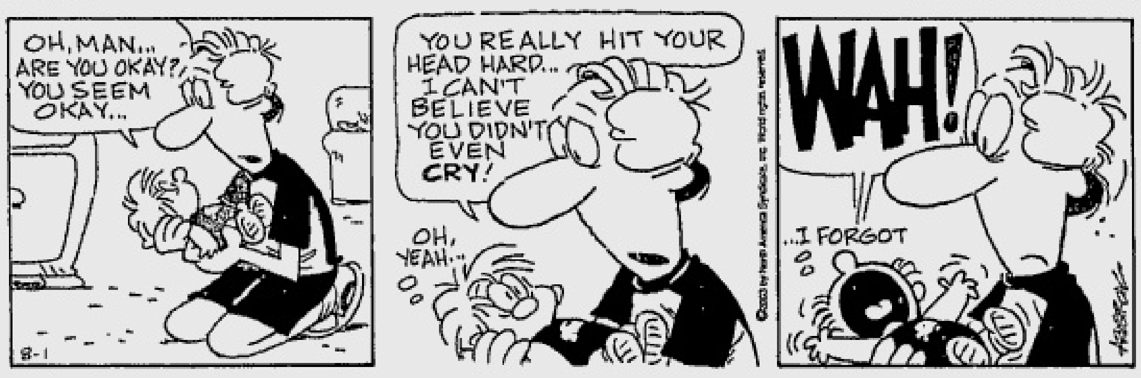
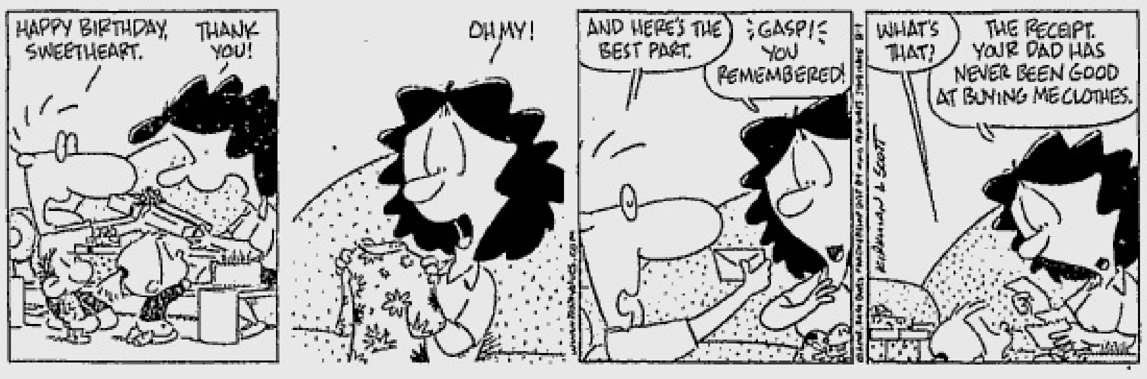
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


THIS SAYS A CARTOONIST IN MISSISSIPPI GOT A GROUP OF SCHOOL KIDS TO HELP HIM MAKE THE WORLD'S LARGEST COMIC STRIP.
IT WAS 135 X 47 FEET.
6 X 2 INCHES PROBABLY WOULD'VE BEEN BIG ENOUGH.
I CAN'T TELL... IS THIS ZIGGY OR A COMMA?
8-1
AMEND

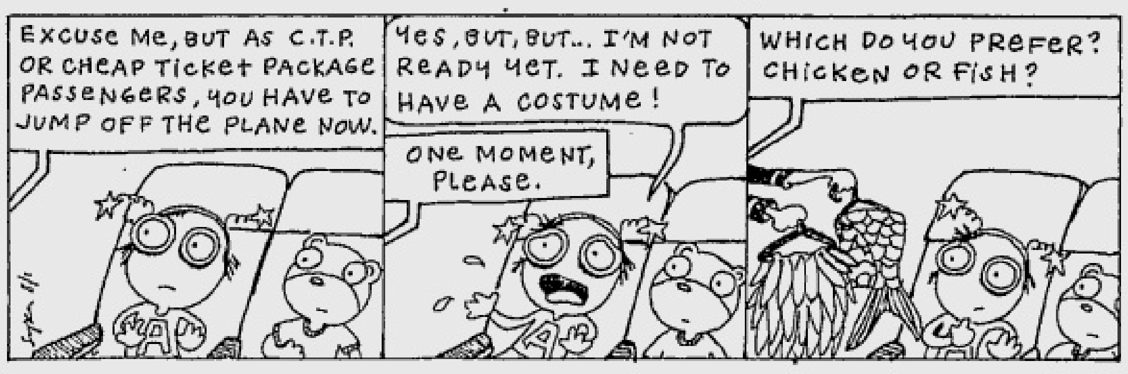
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


OH, MAN... ARE YOU OKAY? YOU SEEM OKAY...
YOU REALLY HIT YOUR HEAD HARD... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T EVEN CRY!
OH, YEAH...
WAH!
...I FORGOT
8-1

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SWEETHEART.
THANK YOU!
OH MY!
AND HERE'S THE BEST PART.
GASP! YOU REMEMBERED!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE RECEIPT. YOUR DAD HAS NEVER BEEN GOOD AT BUYING ME CLOTHES.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


EXCUSE ME, BUT AS C.T.P. OR CHEAP TICKET PACKAGE PASSENGERS, YOU HAVE TO JUMP OFF THE PLANE NOW.
YES, BUT, BUT... I'M NOT READY YET. I NEED TO HAVE A COSTUME!
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.
WHICH DO YOU PREFER? CHICKEN OR FISH?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY Because you are quick-witted and clever, you are extremely flexible and adaptable to changing situations. There is something regal and noble about you, and that inspires respect. This year you will wrap up certain areas of your life to make room for new things to begin.
Birthdate of: Peter O'Toole, actor; Edward Furlong, actor; Lamar Hunt, AFL founder.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
The Moon opposes your sign today, which means you have to be extra patient with others. You will definitely have to go more than halfway with partners and close friends.

TAURUS (April 20 to May20) Take some time to remove clutter and better organize your home today. Make your surroundings more peaceful and attractive so that you enjoy where you live.

GEMINI(May 21 to June 20)Make sure you do something today you can enjoy and have some fun with. You need to feel like a kid again. Pick your favorite way to goof off.

CANCER(June 21 to July 22) Shopping for family or for your home will please you today. Try to find something attractive that makes your home more cozy and functional at the same time.

LEO(July 23 to Aug. 22) You have a strong desire to communicate with others today. Go out into the "marketplace." Rub shoulders with others; visit friends; go where you can see others and, in turn, be seen.

VIRGO(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)This is an excellent day to shop for loved ones and also for yourself. Anything that is related to modern methods to improve your health will interest you. Be bold and explore new avenues.

LIBRA(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)The Moon is in your sign today. This gives you a slight advantage over all the other 11 signs. Don't hesitate to ask for what you want.

SCORPIO(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)Because you create such a great impression on others now, you can sense that more is expected of you. Take this day to rest; you need to restore and replenish your energy.

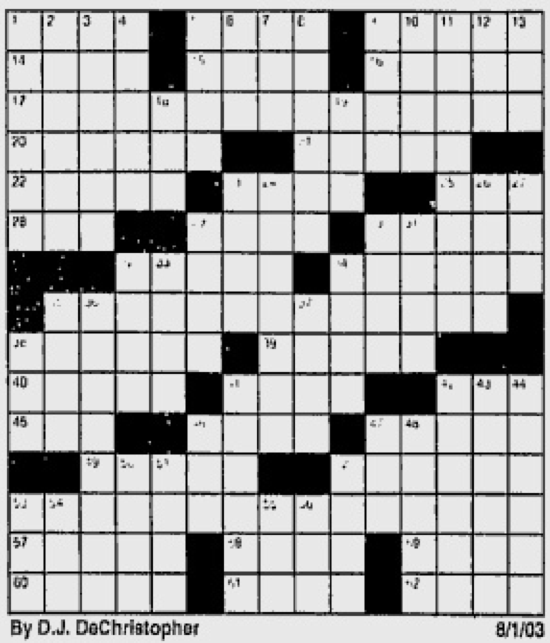
SAGITTARIUS(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)A female friend can give you helpful advice today. Try to keep an open mind so that you can appreciate what is being offered to you. (There are none so deaf as those who will not hear.)

CAPRICORN(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
This is not an ideal day to expect concessions or favors from authority figures and parents. Just try to go with the flow.

AQUARIUS(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)sk someone to join you in any kind of adventure today. It might be as simple as visiting a new store or shopping area. You're hungry to learn something new and to experience a change of scenery.

PISCES(Feb. 19 to March 20)
Try to get some physical exercise today. Your increased focus on work, plus becoming better organized can make you lose your perspective.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY
8/1/03

ACROSS
1 Kedrova of "Zorba the Greek"
5 Neighboring planet
9 Yorkshire city
14 Romanian city
15 Quickly, shortly
16 Kukla's friend
17 I
20 Singular type of band
21 Talk-show host O'Brien
22 Actress Spacek
23 Abrogate
25 Army rcts.
28 False front
29 Cartoon LePew
30 Tranquility
32 "Butterfield 8" author
34 "The Scarlet Letter" heroine
35 I?
38 Stop
39 Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"
40 Speed contests
41 Slight person
42 Fairy queen
45 Actress Merkel
46 Ooze
47 Climb
49 Comic O'Donnell
52 Old Germanic silver coin
53 I
57 Marty of Jefferson Airplane
58 Round dance
59 Not in favor of
60 Consecrate
61 Dead Sea kingdom
62 __-majesty

DOWN
1 Crooner Julius
2 Bittersweet, perhaps
3 Poorest, excusewise
4 John or John Quincy
5 "Death in Venice" author
6 Sun Devils sch.
7 Battering device
8 Coined money
9 Cash advance
10 Cinders of comics
11 Stretch out
12 Clamor
13 Told you so
18 No vote
19 Gangster's gal
23 Aloe __
24 Like a translucent gemstone
26 Cake finisher
27 Sun. oration
29 Covenant
30 Keystone State founder
31 Art patron of Ferrara
32 Comic strip canine
33 Sibilant sound
34 Dickens' Uriah
35 Malicious
36 Endive
37 Cut short
38 Joanne of "All the King's Men"
41 Smolder
42 Moses or Karl
43 Native Alaskans
44 Lyricist Taupin
46 Fam. member
47 HBO rival
48 Manmade waterway
50 Elevator man
51 Moral mistakes
52 Cable car
53 Dwindle
54 Lass
55 Grassy ground
56 Con's opposite

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

S	P	A	W	N	■	B	E	A	M	■	A	D	D	S
T	A	L	I	A	■	A	R	I	A	■	C	O	O	P
A	G	E	N	T	■	R	I	M	S	■	T	O	B	E
N	E	C	K	A	N	D	N	E	C	K	■	R	I	N
■	■	■	E	L	I	■	■	D	O	N	A	T	E	D
P	R	E	D	I	C	T	S	■	T	O	D	O	■	■
L	E	N	■	E	K	I	N	G	■	W	A	D	E	D
O	D	D	S	■	S	P	O	O	L	■	M	O	R	E
W	O	O	L	F	■	S	O	N	I	C	■	O	L	E
■	■	V	O	L	T	■	D	E	T	O	U	R	E	D
S	T	E	W	A	R	D	■	■	H	U	N	■	■	■
P	O	R	■	W	O	R	D	F	O	R	W	O	R	D
O	R	E	S	■	W	I	R	E	■	S	E	G	U	E
U	S	N	A	■	E	V	A	N	■	E	L	L	E	N
T	O	D	D	■	L	E	W	D	■	S	L	E	D	S

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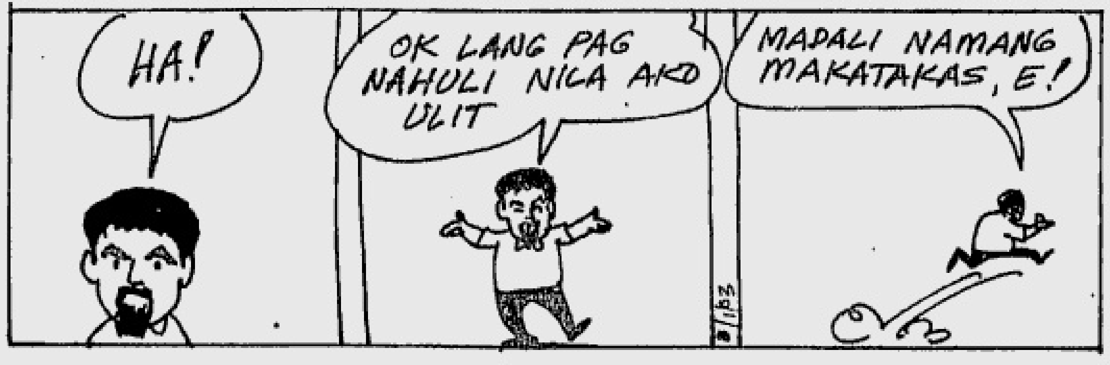
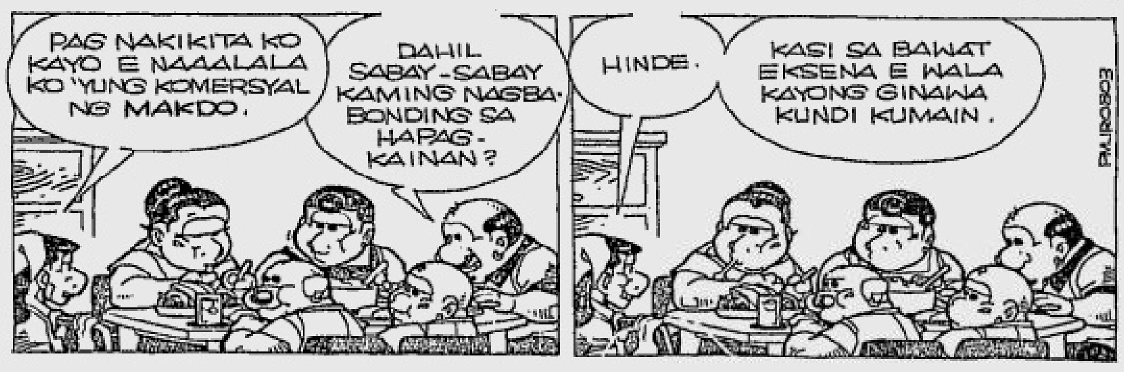
8/1/03

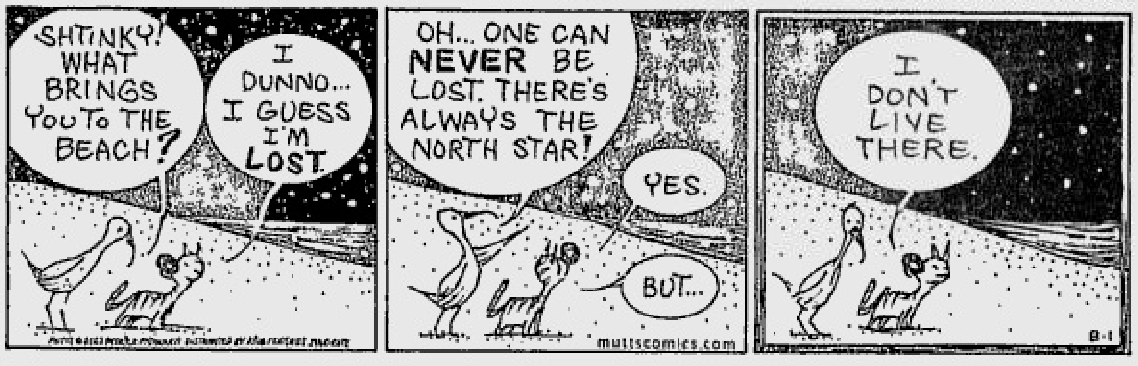
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HA!
OK LANG PAG NAHULI NILA AKO ULIT
MADALI NAMANG MAKATAKAS, E!
8/1/03

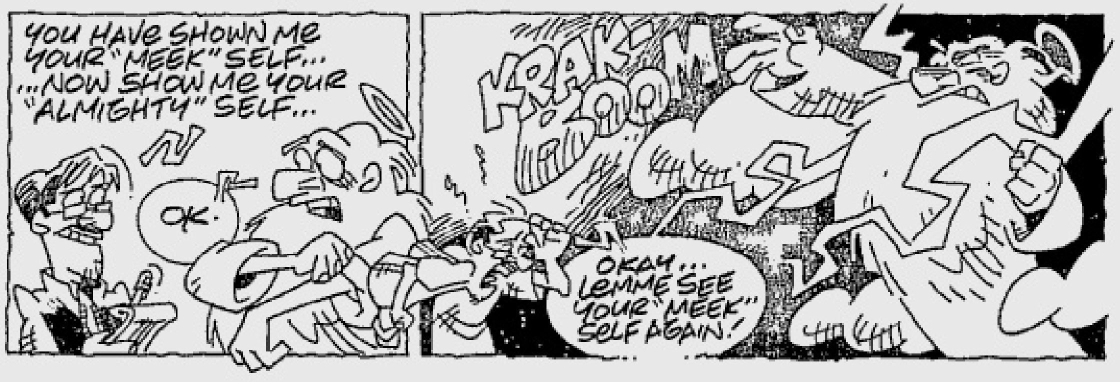
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG NAKIKITA KO KAYO E NAAALALA KO 'YUNG KOMERSYAL NG MAKDO.
DAHIL SABAY-SABAY KAMING NAGBA-BONDING SA HAPAG-KAINAN?
HINDE.
KASI SA BAWAT EKSENA E WALA KAYONG GINAWA KUNDI KUMAIN.
PMJR0803

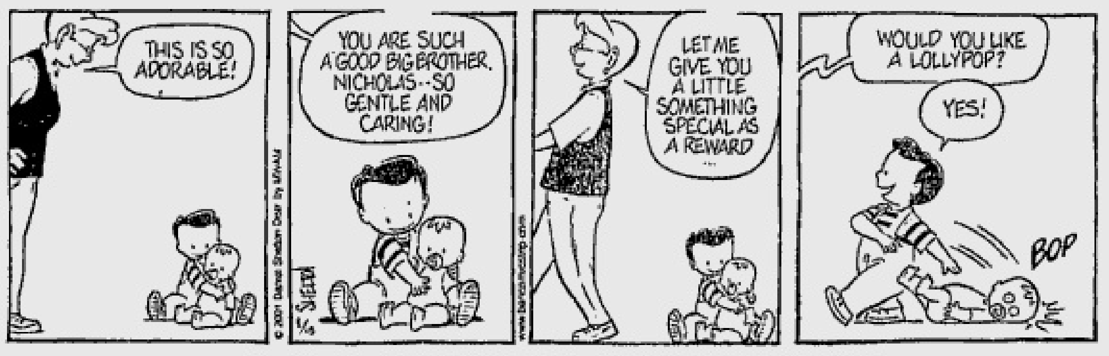
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHTINKY! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE BEACH?
I DUNNO... I GUESS I'M LOST.
OH... ONE CAN NEVER BE LOST. THERE'S ALWAYS THE NORTH STAR!
YES.
BUT...
I DON'T LIVE THERE.
muttscomics.com
8-1

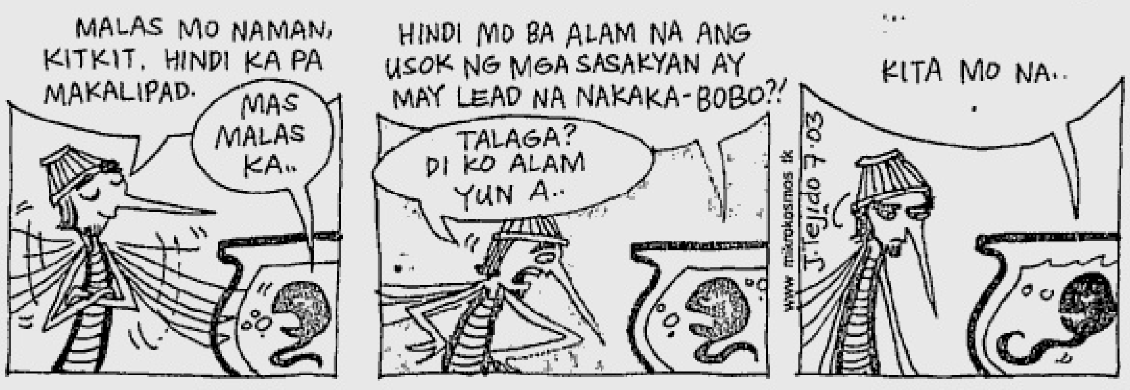
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU HAVE SHOWN ME YOUR "MEEK" SELF... ...NOW SHOW ME YOUR "ALMIGHTY" SELF...
OK.
KRAKOOM
OKAY... LEMME SEE YOUR "MEEK" SELF AGAIN!

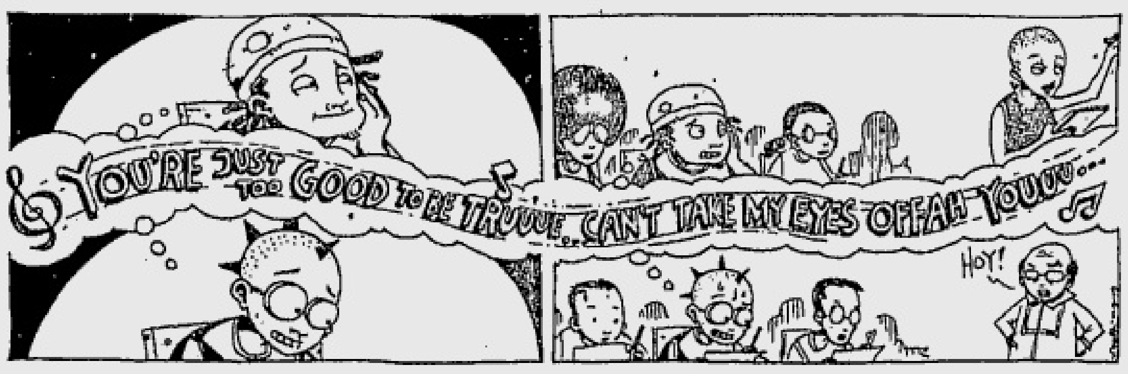
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS SO ADORABLE!
YOU ARE SUCH A GOOD BIG BROTHER, NICHOLAS--SO GENTLE AND CARING!
LET ME GIVE YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING SPECIAL AS A REWARD
WOULD YOU LIKE A LOLLYPOP?
YES!
BOP

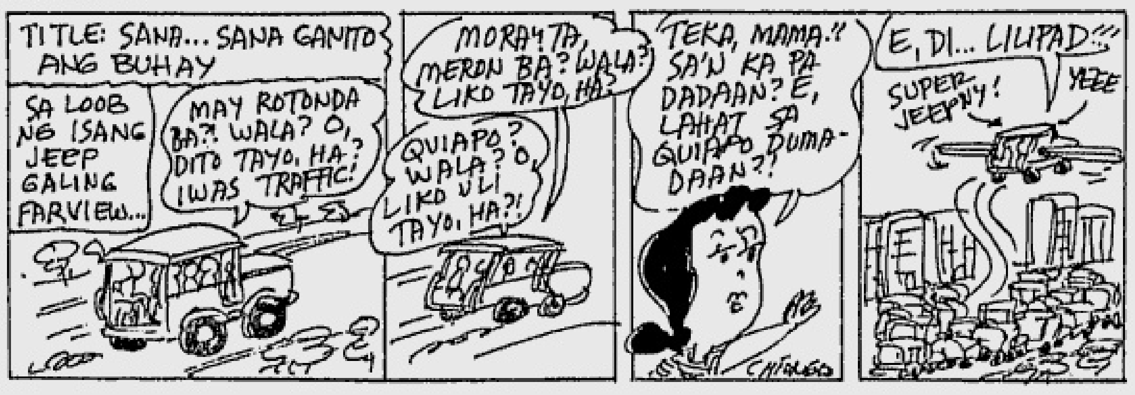
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MALAS MO NAMAN, KITKIT. HINDI KA PA MAKALIPAD.
MAS MALAS KA..
HINDI MO BA ALAM NA ANG USOK NG MGA SASAKYAN AY MAY LEAD NA NAKAKA-BOBO?!
TALAGA? DI KO ALAM YUN A..
J. Tejido 7.03
www.mikrokosmos.tk
...
KITA MO NA..

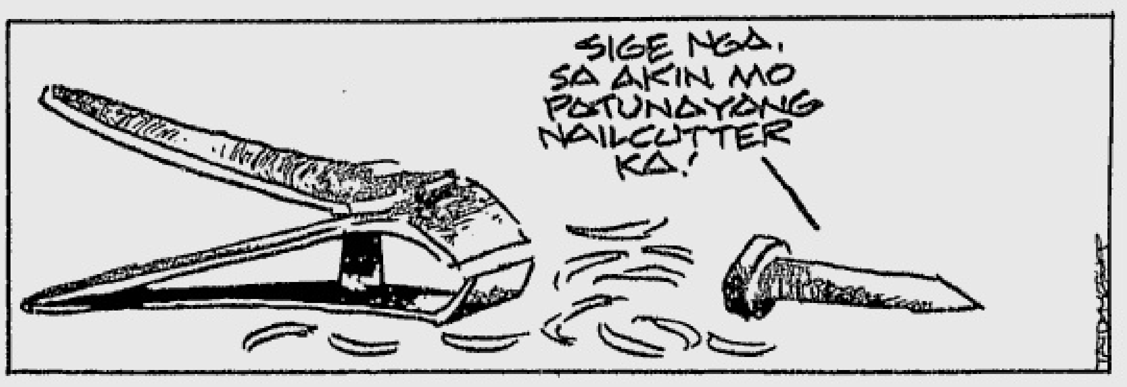
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


YOU'RE JUST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUUUE.. CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFFAH YOUUU...
HOY!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TITLE: SANA... SANA GANITO ANG BUHAY
SA LOOB NG ISANG JEEP GALING FARVIEW...
MAY ROTONDA BA?! WALA? O, DITO TAYO, HA? IWAS TRAFFIC!
MORAYTA, MERON BA? WALA? LIKO TAYO, HA?
QUIAPO? WALA? O, LIKO ULI TAYO, HA?!
TEKA, MAMA.!! SA'N KA PA DADAAN? E, LAHAT SA QUIAPO DUMADAAN?!
CHIONGLO
E, DI... LILIPAD!
SUPER JEEPNY!
YEEE

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SIGE NGA. SA AKIN MO PATUNAYANG NAILCUTTER KA!

LIVING Well features the latest trends in bed and bath, kitchen and dining ware and home décor.

Kitchen entertainers, bedroom health boosters

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Romy Homillada

MAKERS of home essentials are coping with changes in space allocation in residences. For example, kitchens have been expanded to become multipurpose places for large family gatherings. The bedroom and bathroom have also been transformed into sanctuaries.

Manufacturers have responded to these trends by producing items that are aesthetically pleasing while not sacrificing function and comfort. Such products are on sale at Living Well home store and café.

Located at the 3rd floor of The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong, Living Well (tel. 6389590) is stocked with low- and high-priced stylish home essentials from Asia, Europe and the United States.

Inspired by American stores Crate & Barrel and Pottery Barn, Living Well carries international brands such as JG Durand, Mikasa, Luigi Bormioli, Wilton, Morinox, Pedrini, Weber, Ballarini, Wamsutta, Martex and Santas.

Since consumers love accessories that they can both use and display, these manufacturers create products that are multifunctional.

"Living Well encompasses everything you'll find in a house," says Alfred Kipping Torres, head of operations. "It features the latest trends in bed and bath, kitchen and dining ware and home décor that are designed for display and use."

Sizzling accents

Kitchen accessories have become sizzling and exciting. Gift manufacturers have cooked up a bevy of kitchen accents, and buyers are eating them up.

"[The kitchen items have] a broad appeal,"

KITCHEN/14

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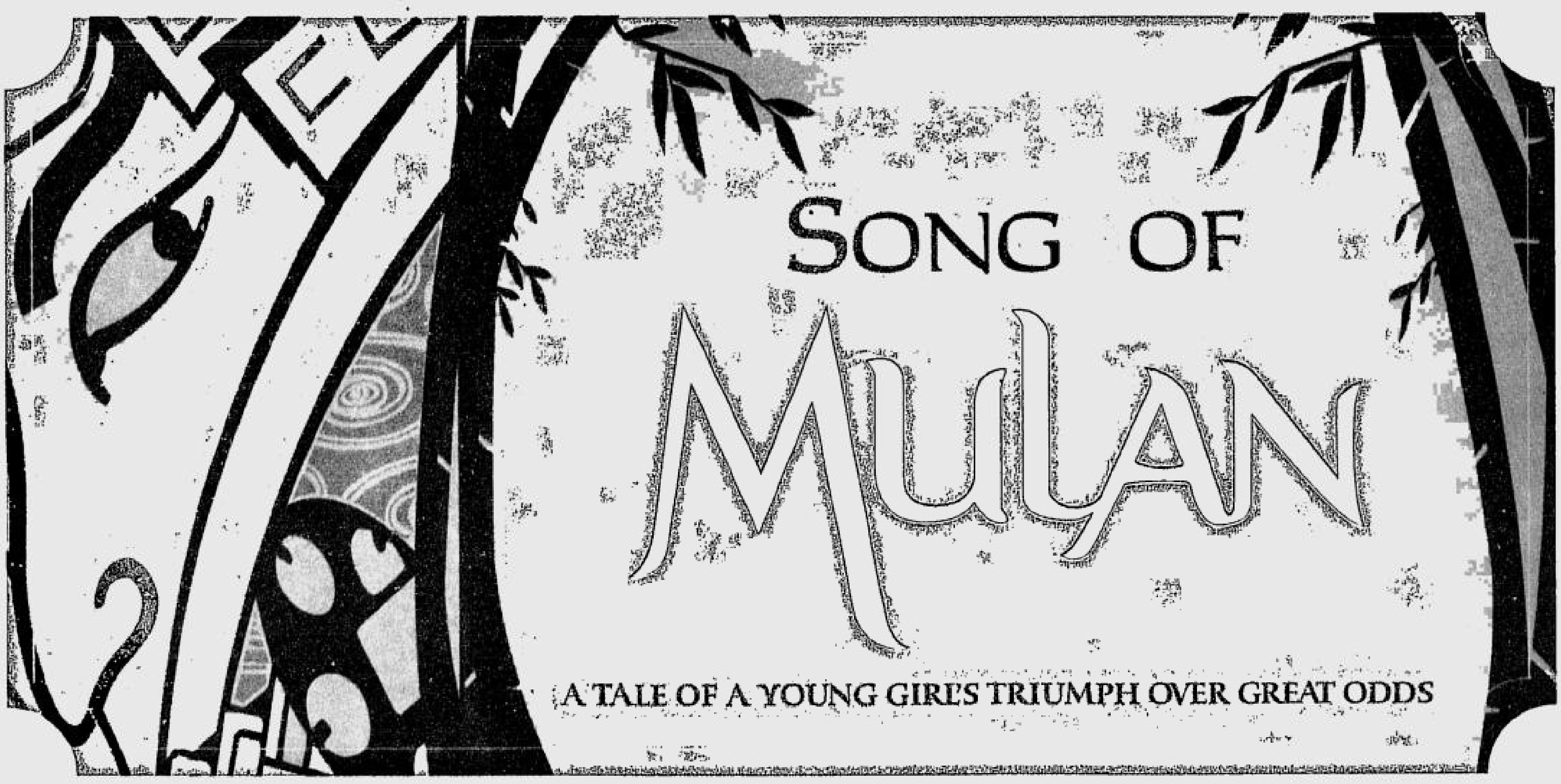
SONG OF MULAN
A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS

Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

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Aug 2 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug 3 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT
Aug 8 - 1pm, 3pm, 6pm
Aug 9 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug 10 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER
CEBU
Aug 15 - 11am, 4pm, 7pm
Aug 16 - 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Aug 17 - 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm

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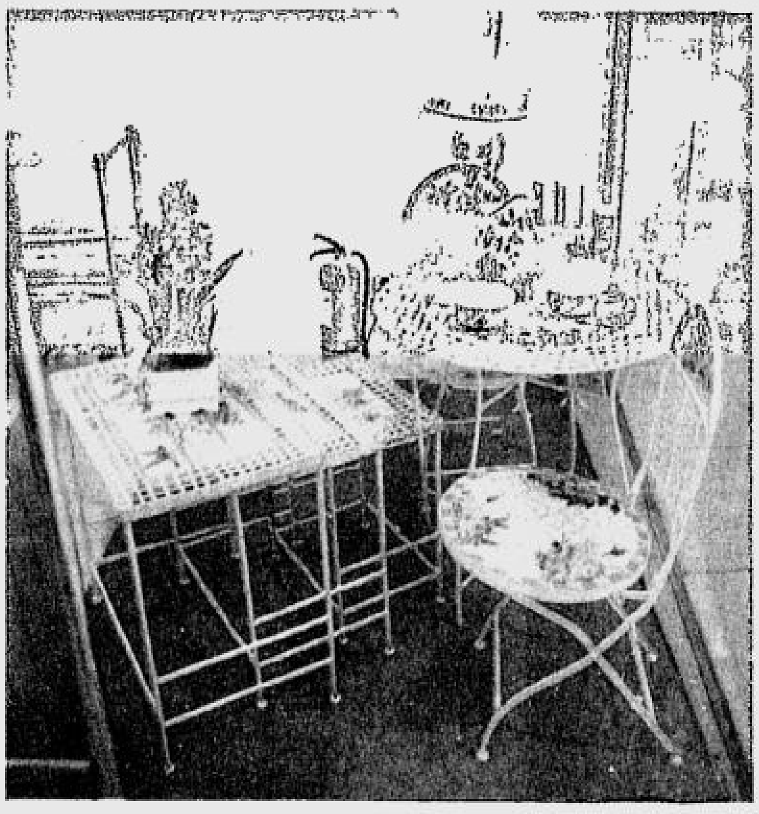
PILLOWS, bed sheets and comforters from Santas Trends have antibacterial and antimicrobial features.



HANDCRAFTED patio set from China

Living Well has houseware that represent the transformation of the kitchen into an entertainment area, and of the bedroom into a sanctuary

INSIDE these colorful ceramics are sets of Villeroy and Boch plates worth P27,995.

Kitchen. . .

From page 13

Torres says. "There are a lot of gourmet kitchen stores. But these items are not only finding a home in such stores, gift stores are buying them as well. And almost 60 percent of our regular buyers buy our kitchen line."

Living Well's best-selling kitchen items include Emil Henry's red ceramic ware such as dinner platter (P575) and dinner plate (395); red serving platter (P1,030); Gourdo's white ware such as the microwave-safe couple plate (P85) and fish platter (P520); Hot Pot High Quality's chafing dish (P760); and footed bowl (P345).

Nesting and home entertaining are the reasons kitchen accessories have become so popular. "People are staying at home and entertaining at home, so anything that has to do with the kitchen or entertaining is big," Torres says.

At Living Well, buyers can easily mix and match items. From beverage pitchers to oil-and-vinegar bottles, there is a wide variety of kitchen classics that will fit in with just about any design style.

Kitchen accessories will remain a strong category because the kitchen is the one room in the house that is always occupied. And it is a category that will continue to grow. "No matter how nice you make the rest of your house, everyone still meets in the kitchen," Torres says. "When you entertain, everyone goes to the kitchen. It's the gathering place.

Germ-free

The new accent on hygiene has wrought changes in the bedroom. Pillows, bed sheets and comforters have to be clean as well as germ-free.

To that end, Living Well is touting products with antibacterial and antimicrobial features like the Eco Pillow (P2,500) and the Santas Trends bed set (P9,880). The store also has health-correct king comforters, bed skirts, pillow cases, pillow shams, flat sheets and fitted sheets.

To help you find the perfect pillow, Living Well offers free "Sleepcare" consultations. It also has a pillow selector machine.

The pillow selector machine makes use of the most advanced optical images to capture the measures of the curve of the neck and the width of the shoulder. It measures the distance between your ear and shoulder and the distance between your nape and back to determine the most appropriate pillow thickness for you.

"Whether you sleep on your back or on your side, using the right size of pillow ensures good posture, a healthy spine and a healthy lifestyle," Torres says.

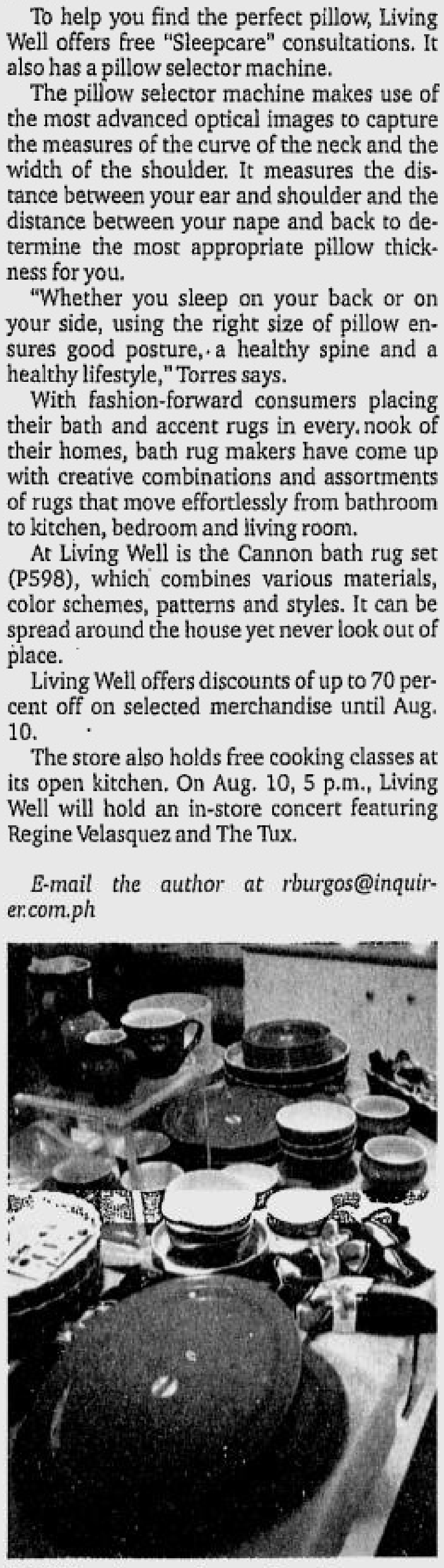
With fashion-forward consumers placing their bath and accent rugs in every nook of their homes, bath rug makers have come up with creative combinations and assortments of rugs that move effortlessly from bathroom to kitchen, bedroom and living room.

At Living Well is the Cannon bath rug set (P598), which combines various materials, color schemes, patterns and styles. It can be spread around the house yet never look out of place.

Living Well offers discounts of up to 70 percent off on selected merchandise until Aug. 10.

The store also holds free cooking classes at its open kitchen. On Aug. 10, 5 p.m., Living Well will hold an in-store concert featuring Regine Velasquez and The Tux.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



EMIL Henry's ceramic ware from France

Robinsons Supermarket

WOW! Low, Low, Low Prices!

For Kids Only SALE
August 1 - 14, 2003

NIDO Prebio Powder 3+ 400 g P121.00 each Reg. Price 123.75
BEAR BRAND with Zinc 900 g P150.50 each Reg. Price 155.25
NESTLE Chuckie 250ml P12.75 each Reg. Price 13.50
PONKANA Orange 750g P49.50 each Reg. Price 51.50
EIGHT O' CLOCK Dalandan 500g P33.75 each Reg. Price 34.75
FLOWER Mallows 250g P17.75 each Reg. Price 19.50
PRINGLES Sour Cream & Onion / Original 191g P56.75 each Reg. Price 61.50
BIRCH TREE Full Cream Milk 900g P195.50 each Reg. Price 205.15
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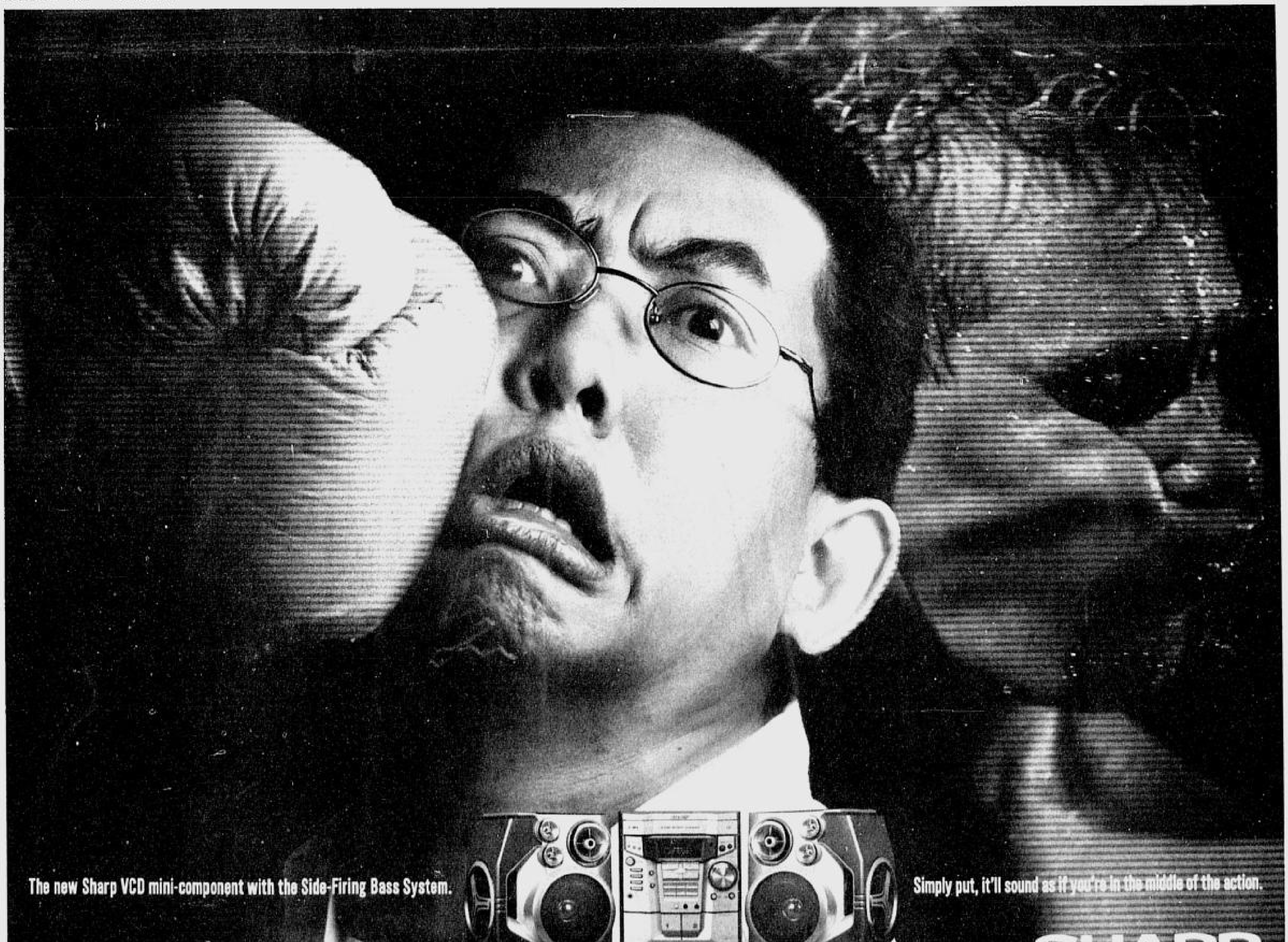

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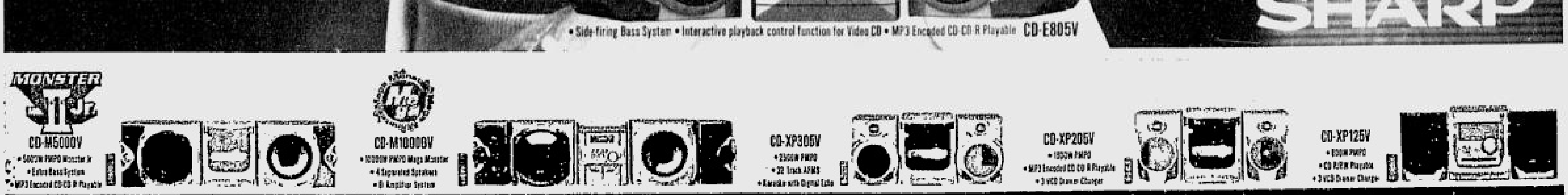

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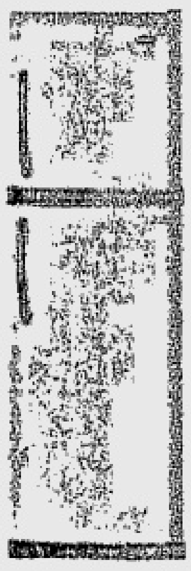

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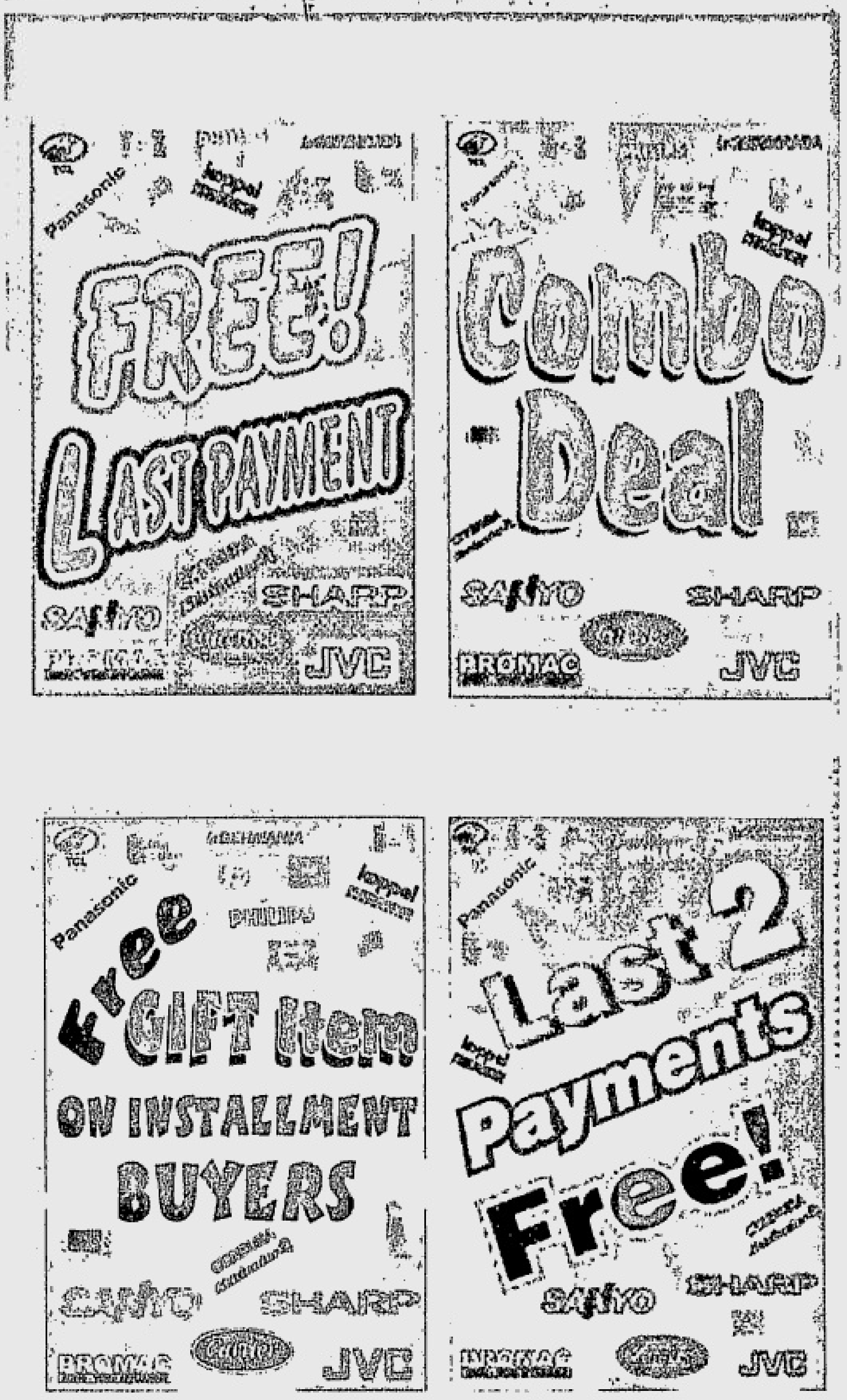
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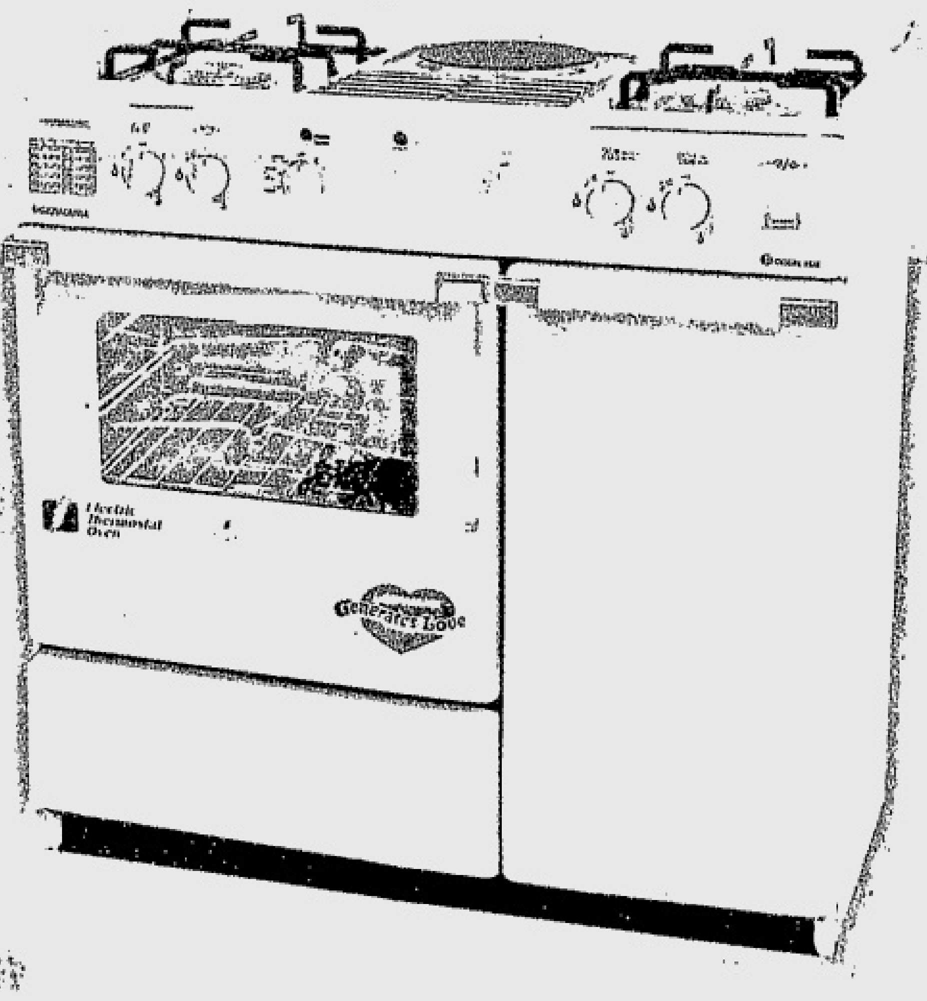
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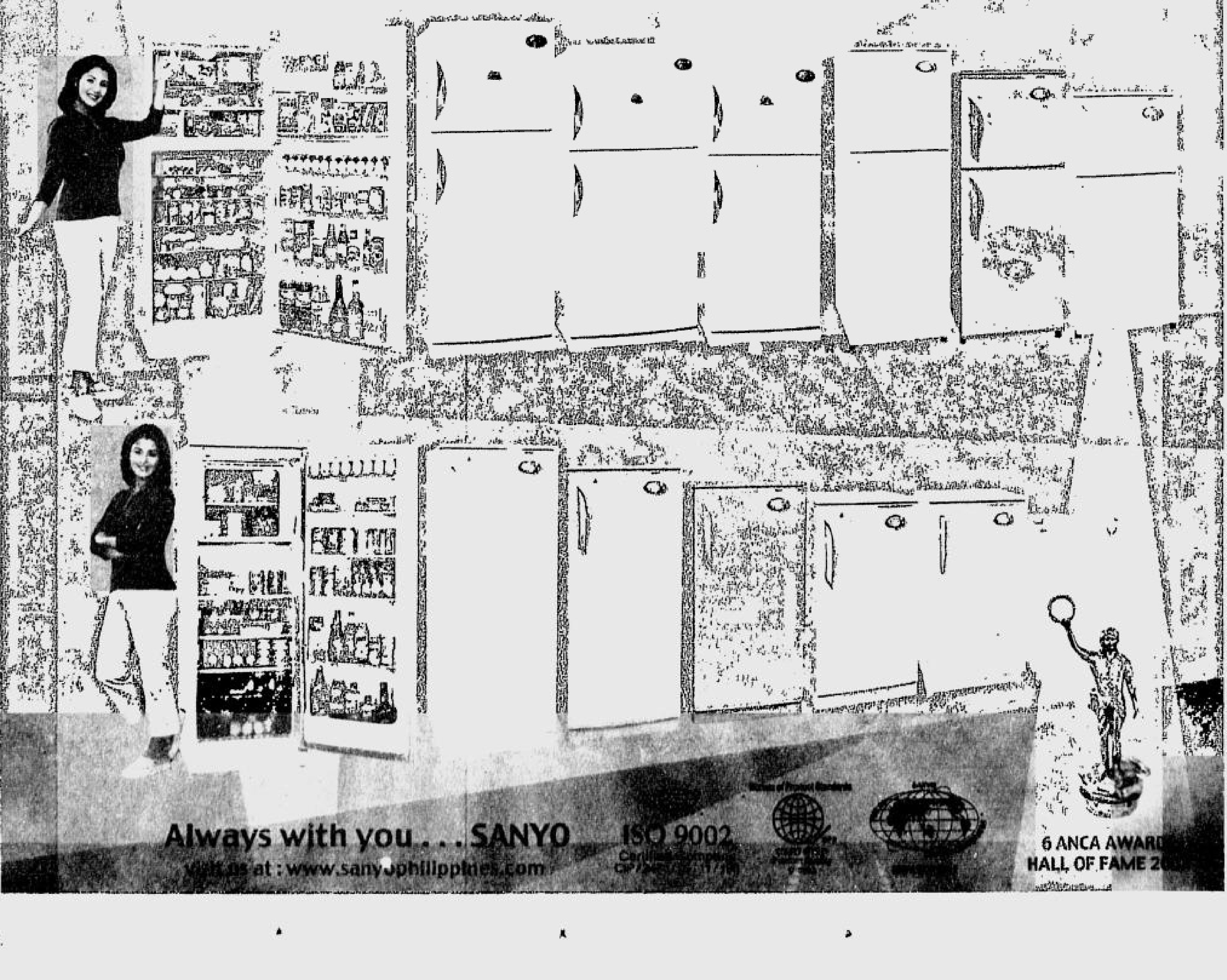
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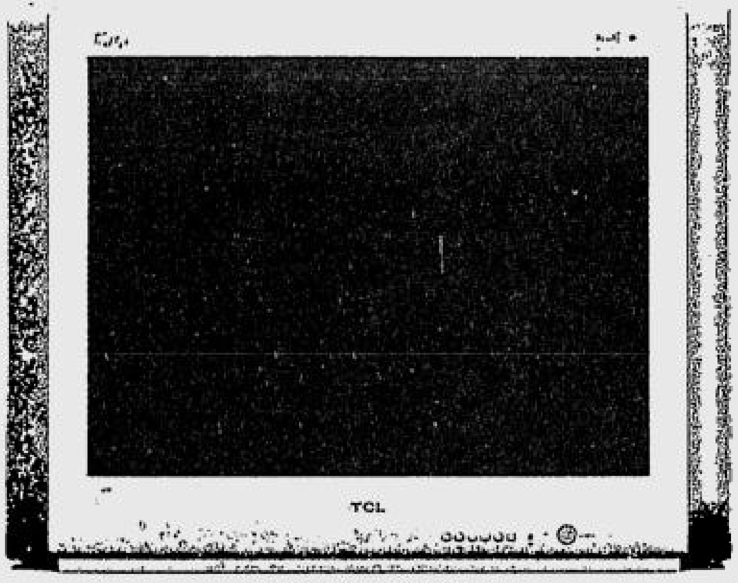
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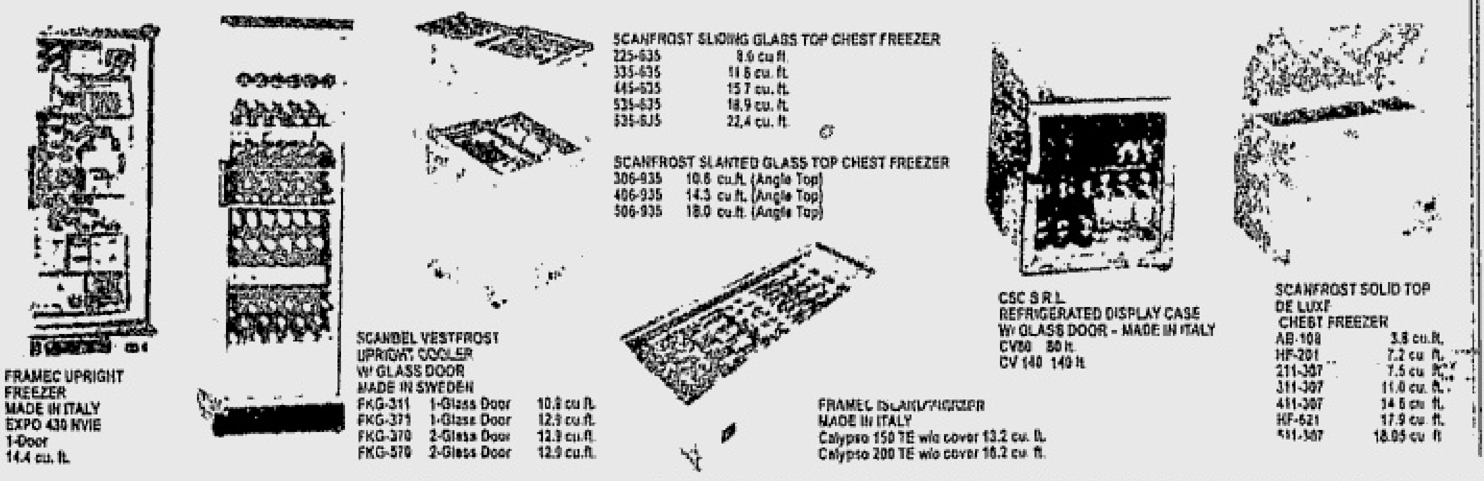

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1-Door
14.4 cu. ft.

SCANBEL VESTFROST UPRIGHT COOLER W/ GLASS DOOR MADE IN SWEDEN

FKG-311	1-Glass Door	10.9 cu ft.
FKG-371	1-Glass Door	12.9 cu ft.
FKG-370	2-Glass Door	12.9 cu ft.
FKG-570	2-Glass Door	12.9 cu.ft.

SCANFROST SLIDING GLASS TOP CHEST FREEZER

225-635	8.6 cu ft.
335-635	11.8 cu. ft.
445-635	15.7 cu. ft.
535-635	18.9 cu. ft.
635-635	22.4 cu. ft.

SCANFROST SLANTED GLASS TOP CHEST FREEZER

306-935	10.6 cu.ft. (Angle Top)
406-935	14.5 cu.ft. (Angle Top)
506-935	18.0 cu.ft. (Angle Top)

FRAMEC ISLAND FREEZER
MADE IN ITALY

Calypso 150 TE w/o cover	13.2 cu. ft.
Calypso 200 TE w/o cover	18.2 cu. ft.

CSC S.R.L.
REFRIGERATED DISPLAY CASE
W/ GLASS DOOR - MADE IN ITALY

CV80	80 lt.
CV 140	140 lt.

SCANFROST SOLID TOP DE LUXE CHEST FREEZER

AB-108	3.8 cu.ft.
HF-201	7.2 cu. ft.
211-307	7.5 cu. ft.
311-307	11.0 cu. ft.
411-307	14.6 cu. ft.
HF-621	17.9 cu. ft.
511-307	18.05 cu. ft.

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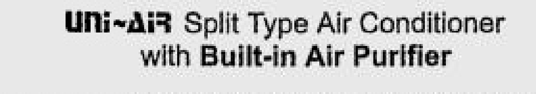

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Uni-Air Split Type Air Conditioner is equipped with a powerful Electrostatic Air Purifier that purifies the air you breathe while keeping the air in its maximum cooling comfort.

UNI-AIR's Air Cleaning Action

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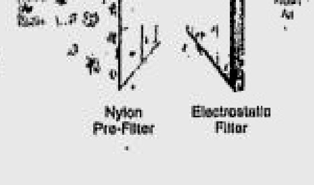
2 As air passes the Electrostatic Filter, materials as small as 0.01 µm such as micro dust, odor, smog, cigarette smoke, bacteria, fungi, and even the deadly viruses are effectively removed.

3 Thus giving you clean, cool, quality air, like no other air conditioners can.



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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Independence Day fireworks festival at Market! Market!

FIREWORKS lit up the sky of Bonifacio Global City last June 13 in celebration of our nation's Independence Day. Sponsored by Globe Telecom and covered live by 89.9 DWTM, the fireworks festival also served as a competition among five local fireworks manufacturers, each showcasing some of their best and most colorful displays that amazed a huge audience composed of merry-making families and groups of friends.

The Pido and Take One band dished out songs from contemporary artists and helped set the mood for the highly anticipated fireworks festival, which is hoped to be a tradition that will continue in the years to come.

Present at the event were judges for the fireworks competition, Wilfredo Villar, Taguig City's municipal administrator; Francis Roxas, center manager of Market! Market!; MJ Handyman of Globe Telecom; engineer Celso Cruz, president of the Pyrotechnics Association of the Philippines and superintendent Elmer Beltejar of the firearms and explosives division of the PNP.

First place in the fireworks competition went to Lebrilla Fireworks; second to E and B Fireworks; and third to R and F Fireworks. To cap off the event, Starmaker Fireworks sponsored a 10-minute world-class fireworks display that further astounded the crowd.

Held at the grounds of Ayala Land Inc.'s newest retail development, Market! Market!, the event kicked off with a dog show, a magic show and fun-filled games for families and kids sponsored by Nickelodeon. Off-road enthusiasts were also drawn to the event with an exhibit of the latest in off-road designs and technology. Furthermore, Market! Market!'s Weekend Market served as a backdrop allowing people to sample regional delicacies and food made available by the merchants. This provided the public a sneak peek of what to expect when the shopping center opens next year.

Situated on a 9.7-hectare property along C5 road, across the International School at the Bonifacio Global City, Market! Market! is envisioned to be a regional retail hub that brings together a unique mix of retail, dining and entertainment choices for the value-conscious Filipino shopper. This five level 150,000 square meter shopping center, will offer the best value in shopping, dining and entertainment with all the comfort, convenience and security the Ayala Malls are known for.

For inquiries, call 818-2241, 815-8003 local 202 and 203, 0916-3342430.

Manila Golf & Country Club
June 23, 2003

TOP GOLFERS AT HONDA MEDIA GOLF INVITATIONAL 2003

The top media golfers showed off their prize-winning skills at the recent Honda Media Golf Invitational, held at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Forbes Park, Makati. The annual event sponsored by Honda Cars Philippines Inc. is now on its 6th year of bringing together golf enthusiasts from all media outfits for a friendly competition and a break from their very busy schedules. Winning the top prizes for this year's Media Golf Invitational are: Jun Engracia from the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Class A); Al Mendoza, also from the Philippine Daily Inquirer (Class B); and Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin (Class C). Runners up include Jong Arcano from Philippine Daily Inquirer; Pompeyo Navarro of Bandera and Corrie Narisma from Philippine Daily Inquirer (Classes A, B and C respectively). Photo shows: Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s president and GM Mitsunari Takano (right) and EVP and treasurer Yoshikazu Takahashi (left) with the top golfer of the day: (from left) Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin (Class C Champion); Jun Engracia of Philippine Daily Inquirer (Class A Runner-up); Al Mendoza of Philippine Daily Inquirer (Class B Champion); and Pompeyo Navarro of Bandera (Class B Runner-up). Not in photo is Corrie Narisma of Philippine Daily Inquirer (Class C Runner-up).

DILG, DULCE, ALPS ACCORD

Secretary of Interior and Local Government Joey Lina and Antonio Dulce, president of the Association of Lions Presidents (ALPs) hold the certificate of lifetime membership which provide free memorial service and assistance worth P10,000 to officials and employees of DILG, PNP, fire and jail bureaus in Central Luzon and National Capital Region offices. The grant is provided by the ALPs through the Dulce Group of Companies. Also in photo are Eugene Go, past ALPs president; Mena Go, vice governor, Lions District 301-A1; Art Vallo, vice president, Lakandula Lions Club.

CALTEX REFINERY BAGS 2ND INT'L SAFETY AWARD

US-based ChevronTexaco vice president and chief financial officer John Watson recently visited Caltex (Philippines) Inc. head office to congratulate a successful team from the Caltex Batangas Refinery for its second consecutive win of the annual ChevronTexaco 'Zero is Attainable' Award for operational excellence and outstanding performance in employee safety. Receiving the award for the Caltex Batangas Refinery were (from left) GM-maintenance Rolando Alibuyog; VP and GM-refining Rebecca Alivio; John Watson and GM-operations Antonio de Torres.

Dream big, spend little

FANTASIZING about that sleek, red leather sofa set you saw last week? Amazed at that movable glass dining table that you fervently wish you could have in your dining area? How about that nice, funky sofa bed you've been dreaming about since you first saw it on display? Ever wonder when you will get out of this reverie? Then dream no more.

With the Blims 0 percent interest promo, you can now avail of these dream masterpieces crafted by the world's best furniture brands: world's number 1 recliners from La-Z-Boy, contemporary sofa beds by Jocoitalia, headboard and night tables from Southshore, leather sofa sets with an Italian touch by Italsofa, classic yet elegant upholstered sofa setsfrom Simmons and La Nouva Italian Leather Collection. Plus, you can choose from a wide array or merchandise that would surely make your house a sweeter home.

As always, Blims is the trendsetter, introducing the latest line of casually elegant furniture from Apple Home Collection. These furniture pieces boast of clean-lined, light-colored, contemporary styles for living room and bedroom, as well as TV sideboards, bar counters and one-of-a-kind bunk beds for kids complete with study area, cabinets and compartments all-in-one. Aside from these trendy furniture, your eyes will surely feast on the newest assortment of dining chairs made of leather and polypropylene seat. What's more, it is only at Blims where you can find dining tables that are extendable (and movable too) and made of thick tempered glass. The best news is, these latest arrivals are also included in the 0 percent interest promo.

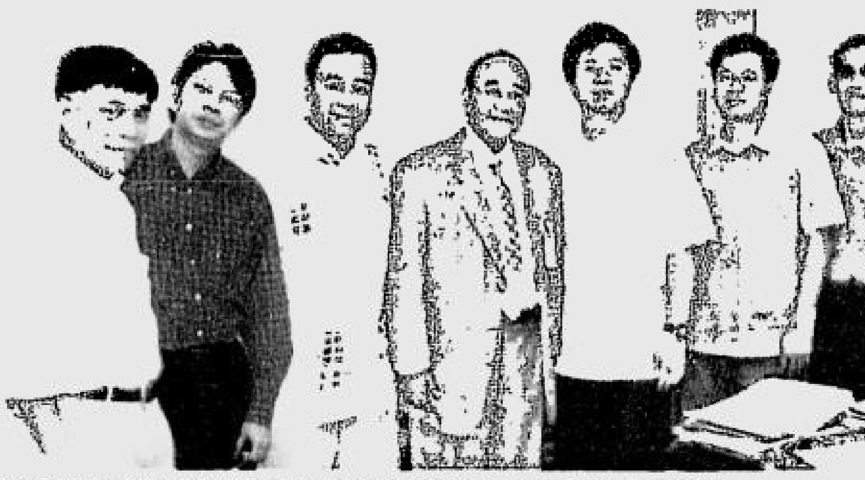
So stop dreaming. Now is the time to indulge. Visit a Blims showroom today and take home that dream piece of yours. With Blims 0 percent interest promo, you can dream big and definitely spend little.

SAN MIGUEL, DUSIT HOTEL INKS MOA

San Miguel Corp. and Dusit Hotel Nikko recently signed a historic memorandum of agreement that calls for the establishment of Fiesta San Miguel, the hotel's newest outlet which will brew San Miguel Pale Pilsen and San Mig Light on-premise at its microbrewery. This will be the first time for San Miguel to brew its flagship brand outside its plant. Signing the MoA are (from left): Jose Daniel Javier, general manager of SMC's centralized key accounts group; Ramon Ang, SMC president and chief operating officer; Khun Khampi Suwanarat, Dusit Hotels and Resorts group COO and Philippine Hoteliers Inc. director; and Chiyuki Fujimoto, Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila general manager.

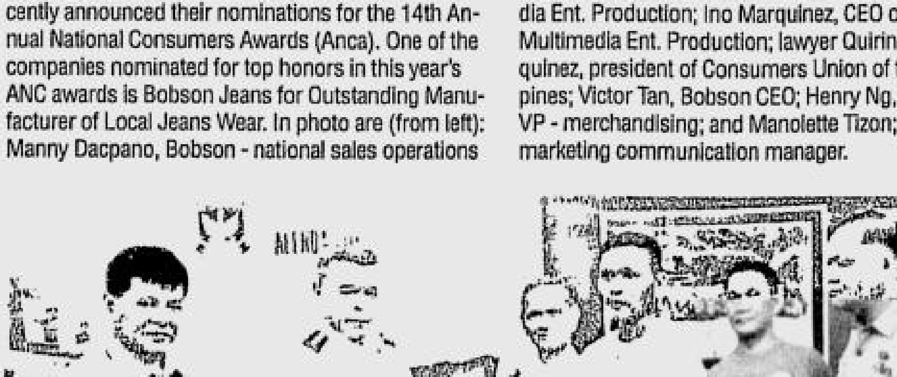
DEALERSHIP AGREEMENT SIGNED

A dealership agreement was signed recently between Jardine Davies and St. Anne Agro Trading and Alog and Company for the latter to distribute Biflex 10TC soil termiticide for the pest control industry. Shown signing the agreement are (seated from left) Josie and James Ulilang of St. Anne Agro Trading; Geoff Thomas, senior vice president of Jardine Davies; and Perry Alog of Alog and Co. Witnessing the signing are (standing from left) Lino Rondon, Ayi Anico, and Edwin Hernandez of Jardine Davies.



BOBSON NOMINATED IN THIS YEAR'S ANC AWARDS

The Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) recently announced their nominations for the 14th Annual National Consumers Awards (Anca). One of the companies nominated for top honors in this year's ANC awards is Bobson Jeans for Outstanding Manufacturer of Local Jeans Wear. In photo are (from left): Manny Dacpano, Bobson - national sales operations manager; Jonathan Alabanza, VP for PIM - Multimedia Ent. Production; Ino Marquinez, CEO of PIM - Multimedia Ent. Production; lawyer Quirino Marquinez, president of Consumers Union of the Philippines; Victor Tan, Bobson CEO; Henry Ng, Bobson VP - merchandising; and Manolette Tizon; Bobson - marketing communication manager.



MARINES-PAG TAWI-TAWI MEDICAL MISSION

The Public Affairs Group (AFPRescom) donated medicines and supplies to the 2nd Marine Brigade in Tawi-Tawi for the joint medical, dental, optical, deworming, milkfeeding and nutrition services as well as circumcision, to be concluded in the municipality of Buan and Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi, Sulu. Shown in photo turning over the medicines to marines personnel are Col. Jess Cabarrus (PAF) commander of PAG (center); Col. Ed Lacanienta (PN)(M) head NCR PAU (left); Col. Gene Generoso (PAF) deputy commander PAG (right); Col. Ed Ramos (PA) PAG; and 2nd Marine Brigade personnel.

Bits & Clips

Omega group joins Education Tech

THE Omega Group of Computer Companies is a sponsor in the 3rd International Exhibits in Modern Education and Related Equipment, Products, Services and Technology (Education Tech), the most anticipated education technology exhibition to be held from Aug. 1 to 3 at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Education Tech will be staged back to back with E-Business Expo and Job Fair Philippines. The theme of the three-pronged event is "Re-engineering Education and Business for Global Efficiency and Certified Productivity."

Judy Qua slates Silva lecture

JUDY Qua, director for the Philippines and sole lecturer of the world-renowned Silva Method Program, will hold a special 2.0 version of the Basic Lecture Series (BLS) over two Saturdays, Aug. 2 and 9, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Dasmariñas Room of Hotel Intercontinental in Makati. The Silva Method is the first systematic program developed since 1944 to effectively train people to function in the alpha dimension with their right brain hemisphere for goal achievements, ESP, success and happiness. The coursework is offered with satisfaction guarantee and world repeat privileges. Interested participants may call 899-8578 to 80.

Broadband completes infra on redundancy

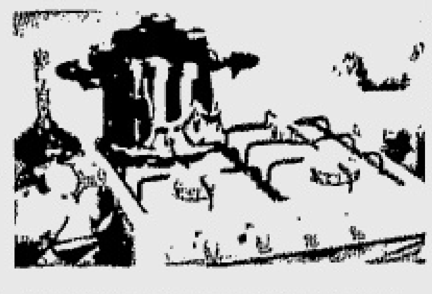
BROADBAND Philippines Inc. has completed the installation of its redundant link to the Internet. Company officials said the move is meant to provide better service to its customers. The redundant link increases the committed information rate or CIR by 34 percent with 2 separate routes to the Internet. This significantly improves Broadband's peering with major Internet clouds worldwide, assuring its customers of uninterrupted access to the Internet. Broadband Philippines is a full telecommunications provider offering local and international voice, data and Internet services. For more information, call the customer hotline at 913-6868.

MCDONALD'S OPENS AT THE PASEO CENTER

Golden Arches Development Corp. managing director Joseph Lau (left) and Megaworld Corp. chair and president Andrew Tan lead the ribbon-cutting rites at the opening of a McDonald's fastfood outlet at the ground floor of Paseo Center, the former headquarters of IBM Philippines. Joining them are (from left) Vicky Lim and franchise owners Elizabeth and Victoriano Sy. The shop is the first commercial establishment to open at the six-story office development of Megaworld at the corner of Sedeño and Paseo de Roxas streets in Makati City.

ProductFILES

Kassel stove



FOR those of you who want more than the usual 2-burner gas stove yet lack the budget for a full-sized cooking range, here is the perfect solution: the 4-burner stove from Kassel Kitchen Appliances. Models featured is KS213 which has 3 gas burners and 1 electric hotplate. As the product is a take anywhere tabletop model, no construction is necessary. Kassel Kitchen Appliances are wholly-imported from Europe and are covered by a one-year warranty on parts and labor. Kassel Appliances have been certified by globally-recognized standards authorities TSE, CE and Kema Keur as having passed stringent parameters on quality and safety. The product is now available at selected appliance centers nationwide.

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Solon graces museum gala opening

AS THE chair of basic education and culture, Rep. Edmund Reyes is challenged to improve the level of education in the country in terms of quality. It is no easy task, considering that the budget for education in the Philippines is one of the lowest in the region. Unlike neighboring countries Thailand, which allocates $550 per student and Malaysia, which spends $400 more than that, our nation allots only $170 per student, thus burdening Reyes the task of making the most out of the limited budget the country has.

"Our only hope lies in maximizing each centavo and encouraging every Filipino parent to be responsible in doing their part in uplifting the quality of education," he says.

"And one way of fulfilling this role is by taking kids to museums, exhibits and other places of interest to reinforce and supplement the classroom and home instruction they receive."

That's why Reyes comes in full force when supporting and promoting MaryLindbert Inetrnational's the Museum of Changing Times , which opens its doors for the public's viewing pleasure at the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa on Aug. 2.

A multi-sensory and interactive show featuring an overview of the changing lifestyles of man in the first two millenniums, the grand exhibit will showcase an impressive collection of everyday things that have revolutionized the way people have lived starting from the Stone Age to the present time. This highly regarded type of infotainment will feature people, objects and events that have left a lasting mark and impact on mankind.

After months of preparation, all roads will soon lead to the Festival Mall as the much-awaited multimedia exhibit will finally start its run for a limited engagement this August.

As a tribute to man and his genius, the Museum of Changing Times will surely make for a wonderful and worthwhile activity for the whole family, as every space of the 5,000-sqm. layout is filled with creative and innovative presentations and interactive games related to the event's 10 modules: The Fire and Wheel (on mankind's key inventions), The Way We Live (on the progression of clocks and calendars as presented by Jo-Liza Antiques), The Way We Learn (on toys that tease the senses as presented by Maxiworks and Maxitoylab), The Way We Eat (the lifestyle change of eating habits as presented by Jollibee), The Way We Work (on simple machines with complex capabilities), The Way We Dress (fashion transformations as presented by Pantene), The Way to Good Health (on steps to attaining good hygiene as presented by Safeguard), The Way to Wellbeing (on body matters and pro biotics as presented by Yakult), our Home Planet (on the history of and caring for the Earth), and Movie Magic (on cinematic technologies as presented by Imus Productions).

"Instead of spending your hard-earned money on video games and texting, parents will do their children a great service if they feed their minds with knowledge through a valuable exhibit such as this," Reyes says.

"Understanding history has never been this fun, effective and ingenious," adds Alberto Rosal, president of MaryLindbert International, the host of this year's grand exhibit.

"Hopefully, with this exhibit, thousands of visitors, most especially the students, will learn to further embrace, be grateful for, and place importance on the present as well as what's in store in the future."

The Museum of Changing Times is co-sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Meg Magazine, Mod Magazine, KWFM, RX 93.1.

Reservations and group tours for the Changing Times Exhibit may be made by calling 899-1645, 899-1943 to 44, 899-1793 to 94, or fax 897-5052.

BPI NAMED BEST BANK

The Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has been adjudged as the best bank in the Philippines for 2003 by international financial magazine Euromoney. The publication noted that BPI posted a 4.4-percent growth in its corporate loan portfolio at a time when other similar financial institutions saw theirs shrink. Euromoney writes that BPI 'once again stands out from the crowd', adding that BPI dominates the mortgage market with a 20.1-percent share and leads in the consumer and retail market, electronic banking and debit card transactions. Euromoney conducts an annual worldwide search for the best bank in every country in Asia, North America, Western Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Nordic/Baltic Region, and Emerging Europe. Shown is Euromoney associate publisher Michael Carrodus (2nd from left) handing over the 2003 Award of Excellence to BPI senior vice president Ysabel Sylianteng (left) while BPI vice president Gertie Sinio and Euromoney senior manager for Asia Marcus Langston look on.

CDO AT PMA EXHIBIT

CDO-Foodsphere Inc., an Agora awardee for outstanding entrepreneurship, took centerstage at a trade exhibit dubbed 'The Marketer's Market Place' held July 21 to 26 at the Glorietta Mall in Makati City. Shown is Mina Gabor (center), guest of honor, with officials of the Philippine Marketing Association (from left) Cergen Go, Sonia de Guzman, Nards Garcia and Jojo Punsal in front of the CDO booth after the opening ceremonies.

UP ALUMNI '63 CELEBRATES RUBY HOMECOMING

Alumni of Class 1963 of the University of the Philippines recently marked its Ruby Jubilee Homecoming at the Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman campus. Members of the class shown above include Maribelle M. Wico-Padiernos, Aurora Alarcon-Lianko, Estelita Lotho-Server, Rosalinda Quizon, Aurora Pizana-Mamaril, Estelita A. Calleon-Aguirre, Luz Buenavista-Tingapalan, Coralie M. Divina Gracia-Labog, Cynthia Pablo, Malu R. Bautista, Elda Paz Balagot-Perez, Aida Caldito-Ferrer, Lydia Jacinto-Paguio, Agnes Magpale, Mauro Baltazar, Manuel Julio-Datuin, Manuel Estillore Jr., Godofredo C. Orinion, Juan M. Perez, Juan Pizzaro Jr., Leonardo Ote and Artemio Isidro.

CARE FOR A CUP OF TEA, DOC!

Herbcare Corp., maker of Charantia Ampalaya Food Supplement, recently sponsored the Second Regional Convention on Preventive Cardiology of the Foundation For Lay Education on Heart Diseases Inc. held in Calasiao, Pangasinan. The company offered wet product samples to participating doctors (shown). Doctors also received products from Herbcare. Charantia in teabags, loose tidbits, and capsule form is proven safe and effective as adjunct to balanced diet, proper exercise, and doctor-prescribed medication. Although it is not an alternative medicine for the treatment of diabetes, both patient and doctor can attest that Charantia helps lower blood sugar level and improve total well-being.

THE FIRST batch of Nestlé Cabuyao employees are all smiles as they prepare to go to school under the company's recently launched ULearn scholarship program, which qualifies employees scholarship grants for MBA graduate and BS engineering degrees.

Nestlé's scholarships for employees

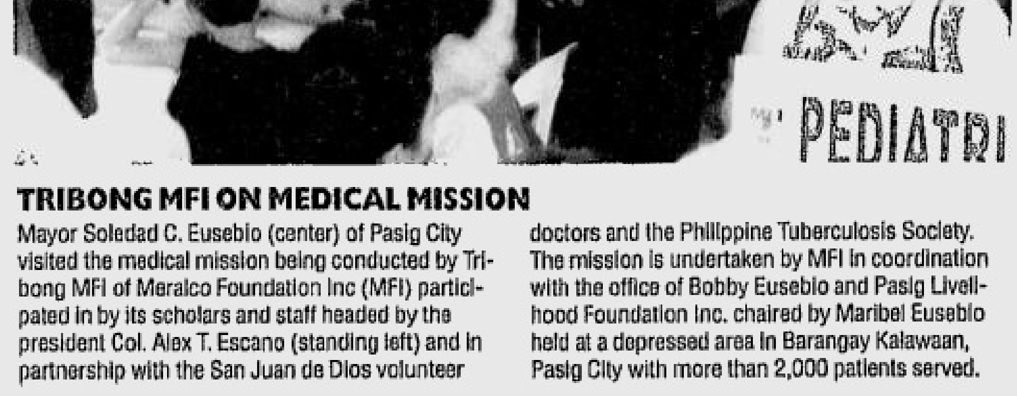
NESTLÉ Philippines recently launched the University Linkage for Employee Advancement and Recognition in Nestlé (ULearn) as part of its continuing effort to develop employee talent and skills in striving for excellence, a major element in pursuing growth and development. The company also believes that learning never stops, that's why it's back to school for 41 Nestlé employees who have just been awarded academic scholarships.

The ULearn scholarship program, in which the company and the student-employee share on a 50-50 basis the cost of education, consists of two components: 20 Graduate Degree Program (MBA) slots and 60 BS engineering slots. This school year, 14 managers and supervisors from different work locations qualified for graduate program slots, under tie-ups with the Ateneo MBA Regis Program and other institutions. The BS engineering slots are open to rank-and-file employees, and this year 27 scholars started school under the program. The three-year college degree program is being offered in partnership with the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP), which provides the curriculum and faculty.

Other Nestlé work sites are expected to follow suit, so that the remaining 33 slots can be utilized by applicants who will qualify for the program after a strict screening process. The selection criteria are: overall business requirements, employee performance, employee's potential for growth and development, and attendance and work attitude.

On top of the new ULearn program, the company is already giving scholarships to qualified employees' dependents through the Nestlé Scholarship Program. In addition, each work site also makes available two full scholarships for dependents of indigent families in the community where it operates. With the launching of ULearn, Nestlé now covers all people concerned: its employees, their families and nearby communities.

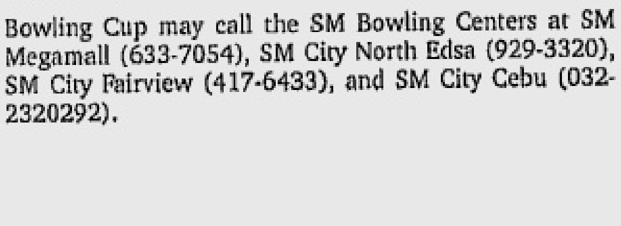
CEO and president Salvador Pigem spoke on the importance of human resources and education in a recent meeting with the employee-scholars. "In any institution, it is the people who make the difference. Our company has achieved success because of our people. This is why we continue to provide the venue for people to develop themselves and grow personally and professionally. In the same breadth, the Philippines will only succeed as a nation if education grows at a faster rate than in other countries. With ULearn, we hope to contribute, in our own way, to furthering education in the Philippines."



TRIBONG MFI ON MEDICAL MISSION

Mayor Soledad C. Eusebio (center) of Pasig City visited the medical mission being conducted by Tribong MFI of Meralco Foundation Inc (MFI) participated in by its scholars and staff headed by the president Col. Alex T. Escano (standing left) and in partnership with the San Juan de Dios volunteer doctors and the Philippine Tuberculosis Society. The mission is undertaken by MFI in coordination with the office of Bobby Eusebio and Pasig Livelihood Foundation Inc. chaired by Maribel Eusebio held at a depressed area in Barangay Kalawaan, Pasig City with more than 2,000 patients served.

3rd Bowling Cup launched at SM



SM engineer Ric Camaligan with Nature Spring's VP for marketing Jesus Mandreza Jr., Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros and Pepsi's vice president Felix Yu during the Third SM Bowling Cup launch at the SM Megamall Bowling Center.

THE THIRD SM Bowling Cup was recently launched at the SM Megamall Bowling Center. This comes after the recent success of the SM Bowling Cup, which drew participants from all over the Philippines.

Sponsored by Pepsi X Energy Cola, Nature Spring, Converse, Philippine Airlines, and Smart Communications, the Third SM Bowling Cup is open to male and female bowling enthusiasts with an average score of 205. There will be monthly finals in each of the bowling centers in SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview, SM Megamall, and SM City Cebu.

Great prizes await winners in the grand finals that will be held in May 2004 at SM City Cebu: P100,000 for the grand prize winner, P50,000 for the first runner-up, P25,000 for the second runner-up plus a trophy. Monthly center finals winners, on the other hand, will receive P15,000, while Perfect Game winners will receive P100,000.

Winners in the recently concluded Second SM Bowling Cup were grand prize winner Reinier Pasquin of SM Megamall, first runner-up Isagani Villegas of SM City Fairview and second runner-up Kim Raymond Galang of SM Megamall.

Bowling enthusiasts interested in joining the Third SM Bowling Cup may call the SM Bowling Centers at SM Megamall (633-7054), SM City North Edsa (929-3320), SM City Fairview (417-6433), and SM City Cebu (032-2320292).